Sunday, November 30, 2025 No 330 ₹8

DH on Sunday

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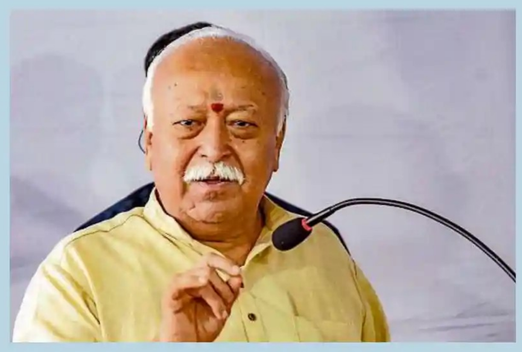
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

‘Present proof that Imran Khan is alive’

Son Kasim Khan makes demand after speculation over former PM’s health

P8



Gandhi’s observation on ‘Indians lacking unity before British’ wrong: RSS chief

P7

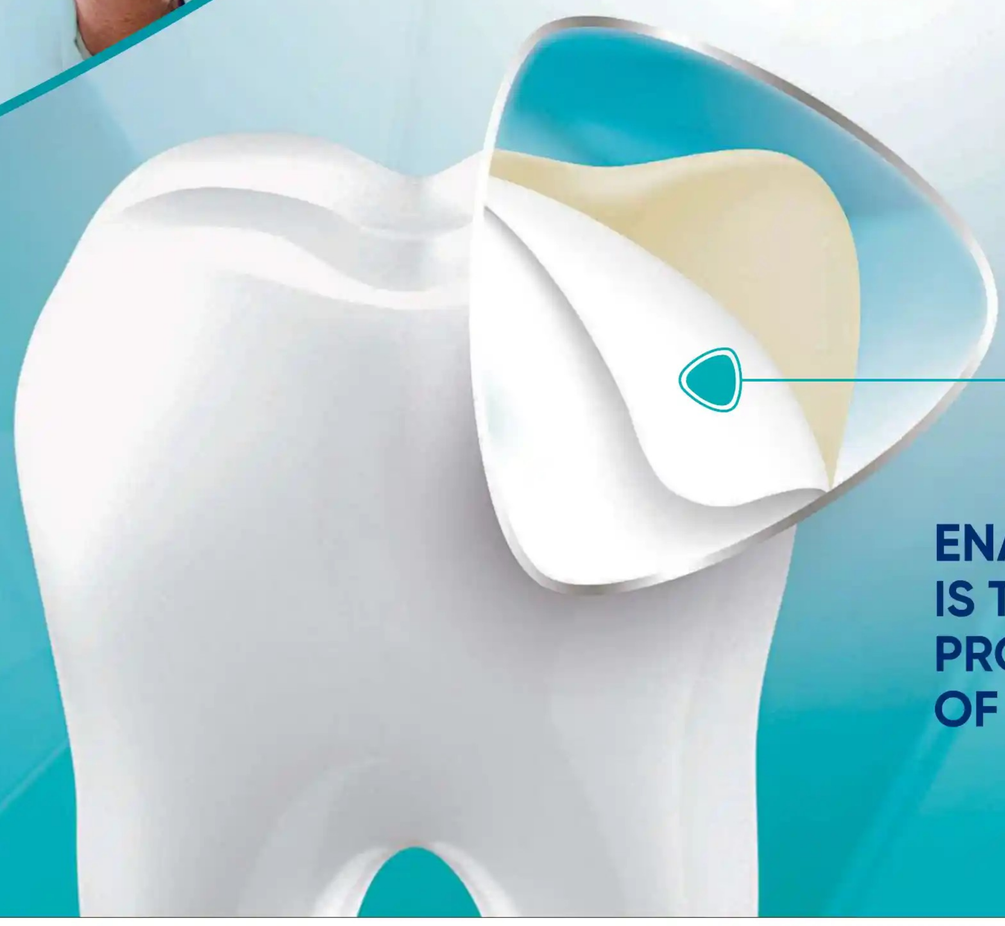
ACIDS IN EVERYDAY
FOODS AND DRINKS DAMAGE YOUR TOOTH ENAMEL

CITRUS FRUITS

TEA/COFFEE

COLA

Dr. ANAND. S
PhD, Haleon R&D Expert



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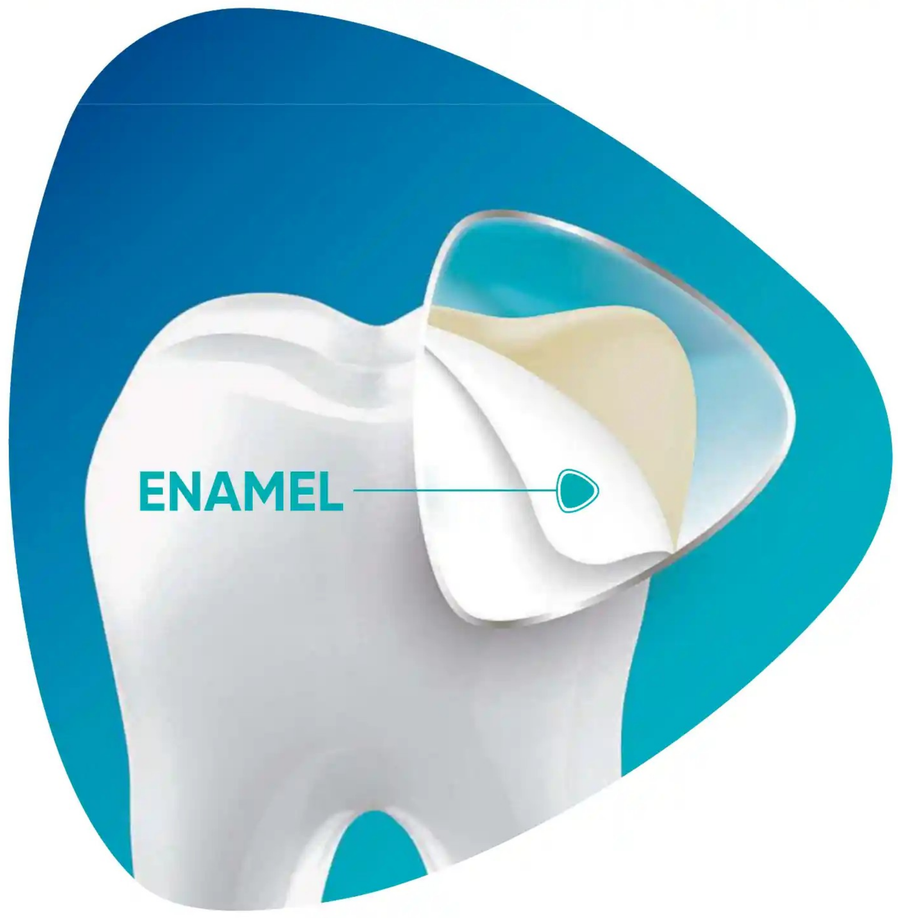

ENAMEL IS THE HARD OUTER LAYER OF YOUR TOOTH THAT PROTECTS IT

Once **enamel** is gone, you can have many dental problems.

SENSITIVITY

YELLOWING

CAVITIES

Creative visualisation

*Fluoride strengthens enamel by promoting remineralisation and inhibiting demineralisation. Featherstone, J D. (1999) In an in vitro lab test vs mouth's natural defense (Data on file). PMID: 10086924

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Bengaluru Sunday, November 30, 2025 Pages 26 Vol 78 No 330 ₹8

DH on Sunday

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DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

India face buoyant South Africa

High-stakes audition for Rohit, Kohli in first ODI

P10

Big Picture

Blindfolded

India's new criminal code still defines rape solely as a man assaulting a woman, rendering male and transgender survivors legally invisible

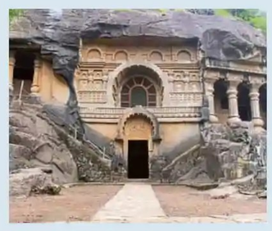
Page12

Art & Pursuits
Page16

Masks and myths

The ongoing Bihar Biennale is a vibrant meld of global south-histories, performances and art forms

Travel
Page15



Spirit of Nashik

From temples to ancient caves and lush vineyards, the city by the Godavari offers something for everyone

Food & Drink
Page14

Melting pot

New Orleans cuisine blends Creole and Cajun flavours, serving up classics like po' boy sandwiches, gumbo and beignets

Quickly

Siddu, DKS call truce after breakfast talks

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D K Shivakumar on Saturday presented a show of unity, with the former declaring that "there won't be any confusion" with his deputy. "The high command asked us to settle the confusion. From tomorrow, there won't be any confusion," the CM said after meeting Shivakumar.
Details on Page 3

Airlines rush to upgrade software

IndiGo, Air India and Air India Express on Saturday rushed for a software upgrade of their Airbus A320 fleet to address a potential flight-control issue flagged by the manufacturer and completed the task in more than 90% of the 338 such aircraft after the DGCA barred flying of such planes till mandatory modifications are made.
Details on Page 3

Centre: Active SIM must for messaging apps

The Centre has issued directions that would ensure app-based communication services, the likes of WhatsApp, Signal, Telegram, and others, are continuously linked to a user's active SIM card. All players providing these services in India have been asked to submit compliance reports within 120 days.
Details on Page 6

Female genital mutilation: SC notice to Centre

The Supreme Court has agreed to examine a plea to ban the practice of female genital mutilation or female circumcision prevailing among Muslims, especially in the Dawoodi Bohra community. A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and R Mahadevan issued notices to the Centre and others. It was hearing a plea by an NGO, claiming that the practice is not an essential part of Islam.

5 of Kolar family die in AP road accident

Five members of a Kolar family were killed in a head-on collision between a car and an SUV in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh on Saturday. Seven members of the family were travelling to Mantralayam when a speeding SUV rammed their car. The two remaining passengers in the car and three passengers in the SUV suffered injuries.
Details on Page 4B

Forensics leaps ahead even as labs struggle to keep pace

Modern investigative tools are transforming crime-solving in the country, but resource-strapped forensic science labs face challenges in meeting the rising demand

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

Forensic experts collect samples from the site after a blast in Rohini area of New Delhi in October 2024. PTI

On August 1, all of Karnataka, especially the Janata Dal (Secular) strongholds, was glued to their TV sets as anticipation ran high in political circles.

In a landmark judgement, Judge Santhosh Gajanan Bhat of the special court for elected representatives in Bengaluru convicted former MP Prajwal Revanna (35), the scion of the JD(S), in the first of four rape cases against him.

INSIGHT

The following day, Bhat pronounced a maximum life sentence — imprisonment for the remainder of the person's natural life. The court, in its judgment, welcomed the Special Investigation Team (SIT) for "adopting and utilising the modern technology of scientific examination", underscoring how crucial forensic evidence was in the high-profile rape case investigation.

It was a challenging task for the SIT, especially to establish that the person in the viral videos leaked in April 2024, depicting the survivors, was indeed Prajwal. For this, investigators referred to methodologies employed in Turkey and Japan to obtain a forensic confirmation.

Investigators compared the physical characteristics of the body parts seen in the video — a mole on the left middle finger and a scar on the left hand — and concluded that they were Prajwal's. Apart from this, investigators also relied on voice samples and DNA evidence, such as traces of semen on the survivor's petticoat, to nail the accused.

In another recent case from Andhra Pradesh, where 19 passengers were killed after a fire broke out in an AC sleeper bus in Kurnool, forensic teams studied vehicle construction defects, road conditions and the angle of impact. Meanwhile, the chemical team examined causes of fire spread, the diesel tank, explosives and other chemical evidence.

Reports from these teams were instrumental in clarifying the exact cause of the accident.

"With coordination from DNA experts, continuous efforts were made to analyse and develop DNA profiles of all 19 deceased using advanced automated DNA extraction systems and STR-based DNA profiling technology. These profiles were matched with those of relatives. All reports were provided within 24 hours," says G Pala Raju, Director, Andhra Pradesh Forensic Science Laboratory (APFSL).

As technology is evolving in India and worldwide, police investigators are increasingly turning to advanced forensic analysis — digital and cyber forensics, DNA analysis and genetic profiling, forensic toxicology and other methods — to strengthen chargesheets and secure convictions.

From the establishment of the world's first fingerprint bureau in 1897 in Kolkata to setting up high-tech labs with modern equipment and trained staff, forensic science has undergone significant evolution in the country.

In recent years, forensic science has emerged as a critical tool in many investigations, particularly in high-profile cases. Following the July 11, 2006 blasts on suburban trains in Mumbai, forensic experts and commercial artists reconstructed the face of the unclaimed body that was left unidentified for over a month. The computer-generated sketch was prepared after forensic experts created a clay model of the deceased.

▸ Forensics, Page 2

The quiet on campuses and a democratic decline

With student elections still on hold, a generation may inherit the structures of democracy, but not its spirit

KUSHAGRA BHARDWAJ

Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and many other states have banned student union elections, and the ban has persisted irrespective of the party in power. In pic, newly elected students of the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union, New Delhi, celebrate their win. PTI

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar recently announced that a committee will be formed to study the revival of student politics in Karnataka, following a letter from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi urging the restoration of the practice.

In a similar move, the Madhya Pradesh High Court last month sought an explanation from the state government for not holding student union elections since 2017. Interestingly, 12 members of the state cabinet including Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, his deputies Rajendra Shukla and Jagdish Deora, and the state's four-time CM and now a Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, have all risen from campus politics. The Madhya Pradesh government has been delaying polls for the last eight years, citing law and order issues. Even as Higher Education Minister Inder Singh Parmar, himself a product of student politics, has promised that campus polls will return, no concrete action has been taken. Instead, the state has sought more time from the high court to file its response.

College and university unions were once seen as the first testing ground for leadership. These were spaces where students learned to debate, organise, campaign and understand the tenets of democracy. Yet, student politics has been curtailed in many universities, often by those who once benefited from it.

India has a long history of student politics dating back to the pre-independence era.

Philip G Altbach, a former professor at Boston College, argues in his paper *Student Politics and Higher Education in India* that the 1920s brought significant political and educational change in India, marked by the establishment of universities and the rise of mass movements led by the Congress under Mahatma Gandhi.

The SUNDAY STORY

The Non-Cooperation Movement was the first major mass movement to see the participation of a large number of students. Students formed youth leagues across educational institutions, providing both ideological and popular support to the agitation.

In 1936, the All India Students' Federation, considered the first national-level student organisation, was formed. It not only participated in agitations but also tried to shape students' political consciousness on national and international issues through its journal.

The student movement peaked during the Quit India Movement in 1942, with students keeping campuses closed for extended periods, mobilising masses, disrupting British administration and acting as key liaison between underground leaders and the movement.

Altbach notes that around 15,000 students were involved in daily organisational work.

▸ Campus politics, Page 2

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CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

FORENSIC SYSTEM UNDER THE LENS

Forensic science is the application of scientific methods and techniques to collect, identify, analyse and interpret evidence

It enhances the accuracy of criminal investigations and trials at every stage, from scene evidence to courtroom reports

The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 mandates forensic probes for offences with penalties of seven years or more

The Centre launched the National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme 2024 with Rs 2,254 crore outlay to upgrade the forensic ecosystem

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

'Forensics-first approach boosts conviction rates'

A structured training in digital forensics and cyber investigation for Karnataka state police personnel and specialist units could improve conviction rates, says **M A Saleem**, Director General of Police and Inspector General of Police (Head of Police Force). In conversation with *DH*'s **Nina C George,** Saleem stresses that augmenting training infrastructure and capacity is essential to meet the rising demand for skilled investigators. Excerpts:

The advanced techniques used to crack the Prajwal Revanna rape case are said to have given investigations a new dimension...

In the Prajwal Revanna case, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) used advanced forensic techniques to establish the identity and corroborate the survivor's testimony. The innovative techniques used drew from international precedents. Now, the next logical step is to institutionalise such methods — develop SOPs, build in-house expertise, standardise documentation for courts, and selectively extend similar advanced forensic approaches (digital, biological, image and pattern analysis) to other cases where establishing identity using partial or complex evidence is required.

Has the use of forensic tools become more pertinent now than ever before?

In almost every significant investigation, it is now essential to use forensic tools to uncover digital, biological and trace evidence that is not evident from the case record or the crime scene. This enables agencies to secure higher-quality convictions and provide better protection for victims. AI-enabled cyberattacks are rising sharply against corporates and individuals, so the only effective response is parallel investment in AI-driven monitoring, threat-hunting and digital-forensics capacity, and targeted use of advanced techniques.

What is the Karnataka State Police doing to strengthen capacity building in this regard?

In Karnataka, there is a clear shift towards structured training of police and specialist units in digital forensics, cyber investigation, Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) and scientific evidence handling, with many agencies creating dedicated cyber cells and digital forensic labs, and running regular upskilling programmes. Training typically covers seizure and preservation of electronic evidence, chain-of-custody, use of standard forensic suites, image/video analysis, and collaboration with forensic science labs (FSLs) and computer emergency response team (CERT)-type bodies, as well as integration of AI tools to triage large data volumes.

How is Karnataka Police preparing to combat and counter AI-driven cyberattacks?

Attackers are increasingly leveraging generative AI to craft highly convincing phishing and business-email-compromise content, generate or mutate malware, conduct large-scale credential-stuffing and automate reconnaissance. Technological countermeasures include deployment of AI- and ML-based security platforms for anomaly detection on endpoints and networks, behaviour-based malware detection, UEBA (user and entity behaviour analytics), and automated security orchestration, automation and response (SOAR) playbooks to respond in near real time. However, the department is yet to integrate these measures at scale.

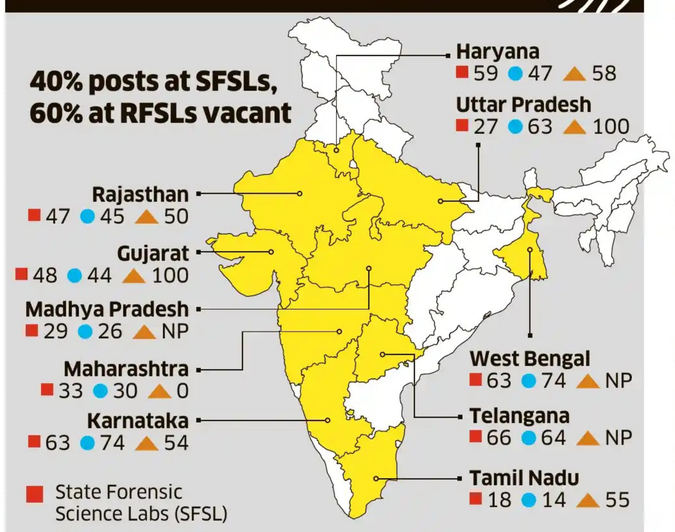
Core investigation techniques

Growing forensic sector

40% Compound annual growth rate of India's digital forensics market which may reach $1.39 billion by FY 2029-30

11% Global average growth rate of digital forensics market

40% posts at SFSLs, 60% at RFSLs vacant


Haryana 59 47 58
Uttar Pradesh 27 63 100
Rajasthan 47 45 50
Gujarat 48 44 100
Madhya Pradesh 29 26 NP
Maharashtra 33 30 0
Karnataka 63 74 54
West Bengal 63 74 NP
Telangana 66 64 NP
Tamil Nadu 18 14 55
State Forensic Science Labs (SFSL)
Regional Forensic Science Labs (RFSL)
Dist mobile forensic units
Data not available

(*% AS ON JANUARY 2023, SOURCE: DATA ON POLICE ORGANISATIONS, BUREAU OF POLICE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT)

Forensics budget

- **Uttar Pradesh** had the highest budget allocation of **Rs 284 crore** for forensics in 2024-25
- **Karnataka, Telangana** and **Rajasthan** have reduced their allocations between 2022-23 and 2024-25
- The states utilised **97%** of their forensic budgets in 2022-23 with **Karnataka, Tamil Nadu** and **West Bengal** indicating over **100%** utilisation and **Gujarat** reporting only **54%** utilisation

Average share of forensics in police budget in 2024-25 in India is **< 1%**

Systemic challenges

Infrastructure inadequacy
In November 2024, an Apex Court bench expressed concern over the shortage of forensic science labs in India. Many labs suffer from inadequate space, outdated equipment and rat menace

Overburdened staff
Lack of skilled technicians and experts in forensic labs are burdening existing staff. For instance, Ahmedabad lab needs 35 handwriting experts but has just 19. Of them, only seven to eight officers can give expert opinions in court cases

Case backlogs
Delay in forensic reports leads to delayed trials. In April 2025, over 20,000 forensic reports in serious criminal cases were pending at Delhi's lab in Rohini. In January 2025, Bombay high court pointed to huge pendency of (>45,000) cases in labs in Mumbai and Thane in five years

Financial constraints
Despite the allocation of budgets for procuring essential forensic equipment, administrative delays and restrictions on the financial powers of lab directors have resulted in unutilised funds

Source: DFSS report, PIB press release, IJLLR, Advocategandhi portal, Ken research, Bar & Bench, India Justice report, legalservice India portal, media reports)

DH GRAPHIC: **SAGAR M S**

COMPILED BY **DIVYASHRI MUDAKAVI** AND **PRAJWAL D'SOUZA**

Vacancies, underused funds cripple labs

Forensics, from Page 1

Since only the upper torso of the body was recovered, with the rear portion of the skull and some part of the face mangled, doctors first performed a cosmetic surgery to replace missing facial tissues and bone. Then, commercial artist Dattatray Bapat prepared a clay model providing a three-dimensional glimpse of the victim's face. The man was later identified as Salim, one of the suspects.

"Forensic investigation assumes great significance in cases involving circumstantial evidence and when there is a risk that eyewitnesses and other witnesses may turn hostile due to the accused's financial resources and influence," says Rahul Machaiah, a Bengaluru-based advocate.

"Forensic investigation is crucial to securing a conviction when there is a delay in reporting a crime, which could, in turn, raise suspicions about the victim's testimony, as there is scope for tutoring before lodging the complaint," he says.

The chain of custody factor

To ensure conviction, the collection and handling of evidence are crucial. Chain of custody is the systematic process of collecting, handling, preserving, transporting and presenting physical and digital evidence from the crime scene to the court.

"For evidence to be admissible in court, there has to be a documented chain showing where the evidence was collected, who handled it and how it was stored until it is presented in the court for trial. All of this must be done in front of independent witnesses (*panchas*). In case the seal of evidence needs to be opened, there needs to be a court order and the presence of *panchas*," explains a senior Bengaluru police officer, who previously served in the Karnataka Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

"If a mobile device seized from a crime scene is opened or tampered with without authorisation after being documented and sealed, it breaks the chain of custody. Forensic analysis can detect such unauthorised activity, potentially rendering the evidence inside the device inadmissible in court," the officer says.

Rahul Machaiah says a forensic expert's opinion is a "relevant fact" under Section 39 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 and the erstwhile Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

"However, the opinion is not necessarily conclusive as the opinion is to be appreciated in the context of the other evidence. The forensic opinion will lose its sanctity if the samples and devices aren't seized according to law," he explains.

"Chain of custody is also vital in the context of digital evidence, as tampering with digital evidence in police custody is not uncommon. Hash functions are crucial to ensure that the digital evidence has not been tampered with after seizure. The new Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (Section 63 r/w the schedule) emphasises the generation of a hash value of digital records. While this is a good development, police officers, especially those investigating non-heinous cases, struggle with compliance as they lack adequate knowledge of digital forensics and the law of digital evidence."

"Forensic science is not infallible. False positives are not uncommon. As a result, the SC is right in repeatedly ruling that medical evidence and forensic evidence would not prevail over credible eyewitness statements when there is a conflict," he adds.

The state of forensic science

According to the Press Information Bureau (PIB), as of 2024, there are seven Central Forensic Science Laboratories (CFSLs) in India. There are also 32 State Forensic Science Laboratories (SFSLs) and 97 Regional Forensic Science Laboratories (RFSLs) across the country. There have been several modernisation methods like upgrading machinery and equipment at CFSLs, as per the PIB.

In the past year, the APFSL submitted 24,389 reports to the police department. Reports for DNA, NARCO, POCSO, murder and rape cases are delivered within three days. Forensic reports contributed to 78% of convictions in Andhra Pradesh, as per officials.

The FSL in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, has offered critical forensic support in several high-profile cases. Its expertise came in handy in identifying passengers and others killed in the recent Air India plane crash in a short time.

In Karnataka, due to the improved DNA testing units and an adequate workforce, the turnaround time for forensic analysis reports has been reduced to one month from the previous average of a year or more, according to reports. The state has also stationed mobile FSLs, along with highly-trained scene of crime (SOCO) officers, for evidence gathering.

Many challenges

However, FSLs nationwide are plagued by large vacancies, underutilised budgets and backlogs, leading to delays in investigations.

For instance, despite having some of the country's best infrastructure, Gandhinagar's FSL faces a severe shortage of staff. Official sources in Gujarat said that the high demand for forensic services from various agencies, coupled with the prioritisation of high-profile cases, has led to delays in processing cases from local police.

The situation is similar in Tamil Nadu. Most labs in the state struggle with staff shortages and infrastructure constraints, resulting in delayed reports and prolonged investigation timelines. Sources say at least half of the posts in the labs are lying vacant.

"If a work takes about 10 days with full strength, we now take twice as long to complete the exercise due to a staff shortage," an official says.

Rahul Machaiah says, "We need more FSLs in the state and better facilities, as forensic reports take very long to be submitted in court. These days, most of the crimes involve digital evidence. Hence, delays in FSL reports can push back trials, by which time witnesses may forget crucial details and risk being discredited in court."

"Along with better forensic facilities, the government must ensure that cops handle evidence scrupulously and must prosecute officers who fabricate or tamper with evidence. For instance, some FSL reports have proved that the seized substance was not a prohibited drug while the accused remained in jail under the NDPS Act."

The future of digital forensics

With the advent of artificial intelligence (AI), technology is evolving, and so are cybercriminals. Cybercrimes now involve the use of AI, cryptocurrency, blockchain, deepfakes etc, creating a growing need for modern digital forensic techniques. Forensic systems must now be capable of handling cryptocurrency wallets, AI-generated content, encrypted messengers, cloud storage, smartphones, advanced computers and data from social media, officials say.

In 2019, Karnataka police were the first to provide digital forensic tools to each cyber police station in the state, says a senior police officer specialised in cybercrime investigations.

"Slowly, the stations were equipped with tools for cryptocurrency and social media analysis. Parallelly, the FSL was also equipped with modern tools and trained staff, leading to an analysis report of a smartphone in three months," the officer explains.

"But globally, digital forensics as a whole has gone down due to the improvement in security features by companies, which, from the point of view of an end user, is excellent. As a result, extracting data from seized digital devices has become more complicated," says the officer.

Despite technological advancements and the different paths, they follow, the core values of digital and traditional forensics remain the same.

"There is a concept formulated by Dr Edmond Locard, a French criminologist. Locard's Exchange Principle states that every contact leaves a trace. Both traditional and digital forensic investigators follow this," says the senior police officer.

(With inputs from Arjun Raghunath in Thiruvananthapuram, ETB Sivapriyan in Chennai, Mrityunjay Bose in Mumbai, Satish Jha in Ahmedabad, SNV Sudhir in Hyderabad and Sumir Karmakar in Guwahati)

UNIQUE FORENSIC CASES

Finland (2008): DNA from a dead mosquito in a stolen car was used to identify the thief

United Kingdom (2017): DNA from a disposed chewing gum helped trace and convict a killer

Australia (late 1990s): Pollen grains on suspect's clothing used to match crime location

Canada (mid-1990s): Pet cat's hair on the victim's jacket linked the suspect to the murder

Campus politics, from Page 1

'Fostering an ecosystem of activism is crucial to building political consciousness'

In the subsequent years leading up to 1947, the movement lost its momentum, with several groups growing disillusioned with the moderate approach of the Congress. The Congress leadership also sought to curb student activism despite its glorious run.

While addressing a Students' Congress Conference in 1946, Jawaharlal Nehru pointed out a key 'defect' in the student movements, favouring depoliticisation of student movements at large.

Nehru's concern reflected an early dilemma which remains relevant even today: should universities remain protected spaces for learning or reflect the political turbulence outside?

In the post-Independence era, lacking a unifying cause like Independence, student politics largely revolved around and against Nehru's Congress party.

The 1973–74 student movements in Gujarat and Bihar marked a new phase in Indian student politics. What began as a protest against a five paise increase in hotel mess fee quickly escalated into a broader movement against the ruling Congress.

Within weeks, Bihar's students were fiercely challenging the excesses of the state's Congress government. Inspired by veteran socialist leader Jayaprakash Narayan, the agitation came to be known as the JP Movement and was followed by the call for *Sampoorna Kranti*, events that altered the nation's political course.

The JP Movement also produced leaders who influenced Indian policies and politics for nearly half a century, including Lalu Prasad Yadav, Nitish Kumar, Sushil Kumar Modi, Ravi Shankar Prasad and Ram Vilas Paswan. But in an anti-climactic turn, Patna University Students' Union (PUSU) polls were suspended during the Emergency and remained frozen for 28 years from 1984. They were finally revived in 2012 and the union is now led by an all-women panel.

Campus body elections remain banned in Karnataka, even though the state has produced leaders such as Union Minister of State Shobha Karandlaje, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, State Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy and MLC B K Hariprasad.

Student union elections in Karnataka were banned in 1989–90 after a court ruling blamed them for caste-based violence on campuses. The suspension was justified as a measure to "keep institutions free from politics and violence."

Karnataka is not alone; several other states, including Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Himachal Pradesh, have also imposed similar bans that have persisted irrespective of the party in power.

In Karnataka, the Congress-led state government is now pushing to revive student unions. "While local leaders may be less receptive of the idea, it is driven by the top leadership, mainly to cultivate grassroots leadership for the Congress, which lacks other channels, unlike the BJP, whose leaders largely emerge from the RSS," said political strategist Venkatesh Thogarighatta.

The absence of political student leadership not only weakens accountability and campus representation but also creates a leadership vacuum in the broader electoral arena.

"Well-managed, organic student politics can cultivate strong democratic leadership. In its absence, political parties resort to indirectly supporting candidates with little leadership experience," said political analyst Harish Ramaswamy.

Thogarighatta also said that the absence of student elections has made money a primary launchpad for political leaders. "High-quality leaders usually emerge from student politics. Without it, money and political legacy take over. Student leaders know how to organise, strategise and question authority," he said.

The absence of campus body elections also contributes to the general apathy of urban elite voters toward democratic practices. When elected councils address student issues and balance power dynamics with the administration, these young citizens leave institutions with renewed hope and faith in the system, fostering participative democracy.

Ideological void

That said, it would be naive to assume that student politics has remained pure and pious; like mainstream politics, it has evolved. While pre-Independence politics focused on achieving freedom, ideology shaped the politics of the 1960s and 1970s, followed by identity and representation politics during the Mandir-Mandal era.

Today, student politics is increasingly driven by money, muscle power and caste pride. Explaining this, Bhupinder Kumar Chaudhary, who has been teaching at a college in Delhi for over three decades, said, "Caste-based polarisation in student union polls has risen. While caste is not a new phenomenon, it has grown more aggressive in recent years, a reflection of national politics. At the same time, the void of ideology is being filled by money, muscle and caste."

On the other hand, psephologist Sandeep Shastry noted that student organisations are increasingly acting as satellites of political parties. "Students are growing disillusioned with party politics and are more interested in non-party activism. While student bodies remain important, fostering an ecosystem of activism is crucial to building political consciousness among students," he said.

The Lyngdoh Committee, constituted in 2005 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development following a Supreme Court order, sought to ensure order and fairness in student body elections. It laid down clear rules on expenditure caps, age limits, academic criteria and prohibited political parties from directly funding or controlling campus campaigns. Yet, these guidelines are routinely flouted across many universities.

This raises a key question: if regulations exist but are not enforced, is it logical to ban elections entirely rather than properly implementing the guidelines?

Nehru once feared the politicisation of students, but today, amid the hyperpoliticisation of syllabi, the greater risk may be their depoliticisation. A generation untrained in democratic practice risks inheriting democracy in form, but not in spirit.

'No more confusion': Siddu after truce talks with DKS

Both vouch to work as per high command's orders

BENGALURU, DHNS

After months of shadow-boxing, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D K Shivakumar on Saturday presented a show of unity, with the former declaring that "there won't be any confusion" with his deputy.

"The high command asked us to settle the confusion. From tomorrow, there won't be any confusion," Siddaramaiah said after holding talks with Shivakumar over breakfast at his residence as per the directive of Congress top brass.

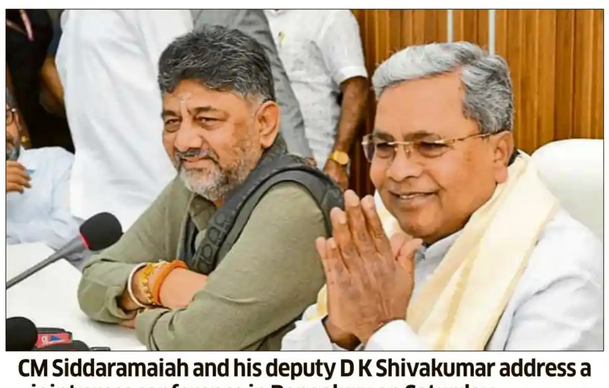
"Shivakumar and I have no differences. Even in the future, there won't be differences. We'll go together," Siddaramaiah said, adding that "confusions were created unnecessarily" this past month.

The development is expected to pause the leadership tussle between the two. It also signals Siddaramaiah's continuation as the CM for now.

Siddaramaiah said he and Shivakumar discussed the 2028 Assembly elections. "The 2028 elections are very important. We want to work together just like we did in 2023," he said. They also discussed the upcoming winter session of the state legislature, the CM said.

"We'll face the Opposition effectively. The BJP and JD(S) engage in propaganda and lies, which we'll face," he said.

On the Opposition's plan to move a no-confidence motion against his government, Siddaramaiah said: "It'll be futile. We are 140 MLAs. The BJP and JD(S) don't have more than 82."



CM Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar address a joint press conference in Bengaluru on Saturday. DH PHOTO

> The high command asked us to settle the confusion. From tomorrow, there won't be any confusion. Shivakumar and I have no differences. Even in the future, there won't be differences. We'll go together
>
> **SIDDARAMAIAH**
> Chief Minister

> My faction is Congress. In 2013, when Siddaramaiah didn't make me a minister for a few months saying that the high command asked him to wait, I said nothing. Even now, I'll go by the high command's decision
>
> **D K SHIVAKUMAR**
> Deputy Chief Minister

> **This sudden display of unity isn't damage control – it's a smokescreen to hide the cracks everyone can already see. Let's be clear: the only thing cooked was optics, not solutions**
>
> **- R ASHOKA,** Leader of the Opposition

Cong bid to avoid media glare

The high command decided to not summon Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar to Delhi and asked them to have deliberation in Bengaluru itself as the party wanted to avoid media attention on the matter during the Parliament session. The party plans to target the NDA, and the top brass thought summoning the duo at this juncture would encourage the media to focus on Karnataka politics. Page 4B

On the leadership issue, Siddaramaiah maintained that he and Shivakumar would obey whatever the high command decided. Asked about keeping his 'promise', an irked Siddaramaiah said: "What promise? I'm telling you that we'll do what the high command says."

Siddaramaiah blamed "some media" for the confusion. When asked about Congress lawmakers visiting Delhi, he said: "Yes, some went because I said I'd reshuffle the Cabinet. They wanted to become ministers. It's not that they're against the leadership."

Shivakumar also said that he and the CM discussed how the government could tackle the Opposition in the upcoming legislature session. "Politically, our decision is to work as per the high command's direction," he said.

▸ Siddu, Page 4B

Airlines race to update software after Airbus alert

90% of 338 A320s operated by Indian airlines fixed

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Three Indian airlines on Saturday rushed for a software upgrade of its Airbus A320 fleet to address a potential flight control issue and completed the task in more than 90% of the 338 such aircraft after Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) barred flying of such planes till mandatory modifications are made.

IndiGo, Air India and Air India Express have said that they are expected to go in for the software update for the Airbus aircraft by the end of Saturday. While five cancellations were made due to the system upgrade, there have been a few delays of 60-90 minutes at various airports.

The system upgrade was necessitated after an Airbus A320 aircraft recently had a "brief and limited loss of altitude" due to malfunction of the ELAC (Elevator and Aileron Computer) used for flight controls and Airbus saying that intense solar radiation could corrupt data critical to flight controls.

The directive for software upgrade was triggered by an incident involving a JetBlue flight from Cancun in Mexico, to Newark in the US on October 30 when the A320 family aircraft had a sudden, uncommanded drop in altitude due to a flight-control problem. The plane had an emergency landing in Florida and people who were injured in the incident were taken to a hospital.

In India, IndiGo operates 200 A320 family planes while Air India has 113 and Air India Express 25.

Of the 338 aircraft, software upgrade is complete in 270 aircraft while remaining 68 will be completed by the end of the day.

Of these, according to data available with DGCA at 5.30 pm on Saturday, IndiGo had a software upgrade on 184 of its A320 aircraft while Air India had 69 and Air India Express had 17.

▸ Airlines, Page 4B

FLIGHT STATUS

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- IndiGo had software upgrade on 184 of its A320 aircraft while Air India had 69 and Air India Express had 17

5 cancellations at KIA

Kempegowda International Airport saw cancellations of five Air India Express flights till Saturday evening due to the software update. There were also five departure delays across multiple airlines.

Jamiat chief claims judiciary working under govt pressure

- Madani claims Supreme Court can be called 'Supreme' only as long as Constitution is protected
- Expresses concern over a "malicious campaign" to malign religious terminology, particularly the word "jihad"
- Says disorder, turmoil, or mere bloodshed can never be called jihad
- Claims that if there is oppression, then there will be jihad

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind president Mahmood Madani on Saturday said that the recent court verdicts on Babri Masjid and triple talaq suggest the judiciary in India is functioning under government pressure, even as he urged the community at large to engage and start a dialogue with people from other faiths to explain issues faced by the Indian Muslims.

"The Supreme Court is entitled to be called 'Supreme' only as long as the Constitution is protected there," he said at the organisation's national governing body in Bhopal.

"If this does not happen, then it does not deserve to be called supreme," Madani said, referring to recent lower court proceedings in Gyanwapi and Shri Krishna Janm Bhoomi cases, despite the Places of Worship Act, 1991.

Mahmood Madani

Jamiat is an influential and the largest council of Sunni Muslim scholars in India.

A resolution passed at the Bhopal conclave of the Jamiat expressed deep concern over a "malicious campaign" to malign religious terminology, particularly the word "Jihad".

"Jihad represents the struggle to uphold peace, justice and human dignity against oppression, tyranny and destructive forces. Disorder, turmoil, or mere bloodshed can never be called jihad," the resolution said.

"If there is oppression, then there will be jihad," Madani added in his speech, even as he called upon the government to protect the constitutional rights of the minorities.

He alleged that "organised efforts" were being made in the country to establish the supremacy of one group through actions like bulldozer action, mob lynching, weakening of Muslim Waqf and Islamic reforms.

The resolution also called the attempts to push the Uniform Civil Code in some BJP-ruled states as an attempt to erode religious freedom and constitutionally guaranteed rights, also calling in to question the Special Intensive Review of electoral rolls being carried out, an exercise that may "jeopardise even the citizenship rights" of a section of a population which would be a "grave violation of constitutional norms."

Govt sets stage for major bills in Parl

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Centre will introduce major bills, including the "Health Security se National Security Cess Bill, 2025", in Parliament on the first day of the Winter session on Monday.

The Bill is aimed at augmenting resources for meeting national-security and public-health expenditure, and to levy a cess on machines installed or other processes undertaken by which specified goods are produced.

Details on Page 7

Cyclone toll 150, Lanka declares emergency

COLOMBO, AFP: Sri Lanka declared a state of emergency on Saturday and appealed for international assistance as the death toll from heavy rains and floods triggered by Cyclone Ditwah crossed 150, with 176 missing.

The extreme weather system has destroyed more than 15,000 homes, sending 78,000 people to state-run temporary shelters, the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) said.

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake invoked emergency laws, granting him sweeping powers to deal with the devastation after a week of torrential rain.

Details on Page 8
India sends aid, Page 8

A flooded area in Malwana, Sri Lanka. REUTERS

KSCA polls: HC declares Shanth Kumar's candidature valid

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka High Court has declared K N Shanth Kumar as a valid candidate to contest the elections to the post of president of Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA).

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed this order while allowing the petition filed by Shanth Kumar challenging the November 24 order passed by the electoral officer. This order will pave the way for a direct contest between Shanth Kumar and former India pace bowler B K Venkatesh Prasad for the post of KSCA president.

Reacting to the judgment, Shanth Kumar said, "I welcome the judgment. I am very happy and relieved that the court has seen that I am eligible. I will rejoin the team, and we will work towards winning the elections."

Earlier, the electoral officer had rejected Shanth Kumar's nomination on the grounds of "pending arrears". The petitioner had contended that arrears were paid on November 24, the day of scrutiny of nomination papers, before the completion of scrutiny.

Justice Govindaraj set aside the November 24 order passed by the electoral officer and issued directions to consider Shanth Kumar's candidature.

The court further directed the electoral officer to announce the list of eligible candidates by 3 pm on November 29. The election process shall continue according to the calendar of events, modified by the court in an earlier round of litigation, Justice Suraj Govindaraj said.

In the previous petition filed by the KSCA, the court had modified the calendar of events and said that the election shall take place on December 7 and the results will be declared on the same day.

Venkatesh Prasad, welcoming the HC's decision said: "With this clarity in place, I am fully prepared to contest the upcoming KSCA elections."

'Blast accused Shaheen wanted to recruit women'

FARIDABAD, PTI: Dr Shaheen Sayeed, arrested in the "white-collar terror module" case linked to the November 10 Delhi blast, revealed that she had planned to recruit women to carry out the terrorist act, Faridabad police sources have revealed.

They said the National Investigation Agency (NIA) brought Shaheen, a former pharmacologist at Al-Falah University, to the university campus on Thursday in connection with the probe, and that during questioning, she revealed she had planned to recruit women for the mission.

Police sources also revealed that the NIA recovered Rs 18.5 lakh in cash, along with some gold biscuits and foreign currency, from Shaheen's hostel room.

Details on Page 6

श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय
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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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TEXTILE WORKERS
Mandatory appointment letter for all workers
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Annual paid leave after 180 days of work in the calendar year
Fixed-term employees to receive benefits at par with permanent employees; gratuity just after one year of service
Provisions for standard working hours and double overtime wages
Women are permitted to work in night shifts with consent and adequate
Labour Reforms for Aatmanirbhar Bharat
CBC 23101/13/0010/2526

LIFE CHOICE

Egg freezing trends as ambition & tradition blend

DH SPECIAL

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Gynaecologists and fertility experts in Bengaluru are seeing an increased inclination among women towards freezing their eggs. From just one or two queries a month five years ago to three to four patients every week, egg freezing is gaining popularity among young women.

DH spoke to doctors and consultants at a host of fertility clinics and hospitals to understand how the procedure was sought.

"There has definitely been a noticeable increase in enquiries about egg freezing. When we first started IVF and reproductive medicine five to ten years ago, we would receive one to two enquiries per month, sometimes even one to two every three months. Today, we see three to four patients every week interested in egg freezing," said Dr Arunima Haldar, Consultant – IVF & Reproductive Medicine at a hospital in Whitefield.

Timing pregnancy

- Main reasons to opt for egg freezing: career ambitions and uncertainty about starting a family
- Egg freezing helps women gain control over their life and choices
- Good option for women with medical conditions
- Doctors advise that women should opt for egg freezing before they turn 30

Increased awareness has made more women consider the option and this has specially been the case after the Covid pandemic.

"The shift really picked up after the pandemic, when many women reassessed life plans, careers and timelines. Bengaluru's young professionals are now far more aware of fertility options than they were a few years ago," said Dr Pranathi Aravind, Senior Consultant - Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at a hospital in Kengeri.

Women had various reasons to opt egg freezing, from career to uncertainty about starting a family.

"Today's women are a perfect blend of ambition and tradition who want to scale heights both academically and professionally without missing the joys of parenthood and a loving family. Egg freezing gives her the freedom of planning pregnancy only when she is ready," said Dr Meghana Nyapathi, Cluster Head - Reproductive Medicine, at a well-known fertility Hospital in J P Nagar.

▸ Gynaecologists, Page 4B

NO WALK IN THE PARK Lack of rule enforcement, easy public parking chokes streets

Haphazard parking make leeway a luxury on city's roads

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

The city is caught in a self-inflicted parking conundrum, where a massive shortage of designated spaces, inadequate urban planning and lack of enforcement combine to choke the city's arterial roads.

While the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) push a sweeping vision of 66 multi-level smart mechanical parking systems, work towards bringing back pay and park system and revive towing, a reality check reveals deep-rooted issues that must be addressed.

The shortage of parking spaces is primarily a consequence of rapid, unplanned urban growth and neglect of parking norms, particularly in older, dense neighbourhoods.

A key driver is the non-compliance by commercial buildings. Building plans mandate parking space, but commercial establishments ranging from multi-storied complexes to restaurants often misuse basement parking for commercial activities or storage to maximise retail or office space. This forces customer vehicles on to the street, a senior traffic police officer told *DH*.

A reality check by *DH* in areas like Malleswaram, Majestic, Gandhinagar, Koramangala, Basavanagudi, and Jayanagar showed buildings were built decades ago when vehicle ownership was low, without provisions for modern car parking.

As residents acquired cars, they spilled on to the roads. "Parking in old areas is a massive problem. In neighbourhoods like Jayanagar and Malleswaram, houses were built without car parking provisions. Now, with every family owning cars, residents are forced to park illegally on the roads, which contributes to chaos," said Ajay Kumar, a Jayanagar resident.

People who come to Malleswaram and nearby areas park their vehicles in nearby residential areas.

Ananya, a local, said, "We cannot even take out our vehicles when someone parks in front of our gates. Many residents who used to park vehicles inside their gates are now parking on the roadside to stop others".

"I only drive to places that have reliable parking. I chose to live in a gated villa community mainly because of the convenience of having my own dedicated parking spot," said Poornesh, an IT employee based in Whitefield.

Existing multi-level parking lots (MLCPs) remain drastically underutilised. The facility at Freedom Park, for example, has occupancy of only 10-15% of its capacity (600 cars, 750 two-wheelers).

When this reporter visited the city's major multi-level parking facilities at Freedom Park and JC Road, the managements said despite having amenities like dedicated female and handicapped parking, clean toilets and free Wi-Fi, the facility is severely under-utilised.

This results in monthly losses of nearly Rs 3 lakh just for electricity and maintenance.

The underlying reason, they said, is the failure of authorities to enforce no-parking on surrounding streets.

Kalyan, a representative from the private agency managing the MLCP, highlighted two core reasons for the under-utilisation: Poor location/accessibility (one-way system makes direct access difficult) and illegal parking on nearby streets.

The BTP, despite identifying 1,189 roads as no-parking zones, has struggled with enforcement. Without an immediate, convenient and formal parking alternative, drivers often violate rules.

Vehicles are parked on the pavement on 5th main road in Gandhinagar, cheek by jowl a 'no parking' signboard. DH PHOTO

'Bring towing back'

Joint commissioner of police (traffic) Karthik Reddy told *DH* about the scale of the enforcement problem.

"The main issue with parking is that we have 1,189 roads notified as no parking area," Reddy told *DH*.

"We have around 240 Cobras whose main job is to get these vehicles removed. We take up field traffic violation report cases (photo enforcement) and use our 1,100 wheel clamps to curb illegal parking. Yet, motorists return quickly, saying 'Just two minutes, sir.' That is why we asked GBA to give us towing vehicles. That will deter people from parking as per their wish".

Reddy said purchase of towing vehicles was in the tendering process and expected in the next few weeks. He said enforcement challenges peak on weekends in commercial areas, with Saturdays being a headache after 2 pm.

BTP's paid parking strategy

He said a new strategy was discussed with GBA to ease parking woes: convert currently notified no-parking areas into paid parking zones.

"If the road is wide enough and not a main arterial road, parking can be allowed, but it will be paid parking". He confirmed that the list of such places was being prepared and will be sent to GBA next week for official notification and tendering.

Proposed solution: technology, towing and tariffs

In a quick chat with Ashwin B M, GBA chief commissioner M Maheshwar Rao outlined the Authority's strategy with the new parking policy.

Excerpts

For the new 66 sites, how will GBA guarantee usage? Will you enforce no-parking zones around them?

"As per Parking Policy 2.0, on-street parking is not to be allowed in the immediate vicinity of MLCPs and must be clearly marked 'No Parking' zones. GBA will work with BTP to formally notify and enforce these stretches through towing, fines and digital challans. We will also make new structures attractive by locating them in high-demand commercial hubs, ensuring security and integrating them with digital payment and navigation apps for real-time availability".

Commercial buildings misuse or lack parking, causing congestion....

The message is clear: parking space approved in the building plan must be used as parking. We will institute joint inspections by the engineering and town-planning wings, starting with high-congestion corridors. Violators will receive short-window notices; failure to comply may lead to cancellation of trade licence in serious cases and appropriate fines.

What is the deadline and scope for paid parking?

Parking Policy 2.0 mandates that parking in busy commercial areas should be paid, managed and digitally monitored. We will implement paid on-street and off-street parking in a phased, comprehensive manner. To ensure consistent enforcement, we will use technology including handheld/POS devices for wardens, surveillance cameras, VMS boards for real-time information and QR code/app-based payments".

Do you think bringing towing back will help enforce parking rules?

GBA has drafted a model tender document with standardised technical criteria, clear service-level benchmarks and digital monitoring of collections to reduce leakages. On enforcement, towing is one of several tools to be used. Ultimately, success depends on better infrastructure, fair contracts and visible, even-handed enforcement.

M Maheshwar Rao

Mercury injection murder; Man held after wife's deathbed statement

She was battling organ failure for 10 months

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Attibele police have arrested a city-based businessman for allegedly killing his wife by injecting mercury into her body ten months ago. The victim, Vidya M, who was battling severe organ failure for months, died at Victoria Hospital on Tuesday, prompting the police to convert the case into dowry death.

A senior police officer said that during the interrogation 45-year-old accused Basavaraju said that his wife Vidya was mentally ill and the couple frequently quarreled over petty issues. However, he did not confess to injecting her. Based on a video statement recorded from Vidya on her deathbed, Basavaraju was arrested and remanded in judicial custody on Friday. The investigation officials are awaiting the final postmortem report and the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) reports on toxicology and mercury levels.

Vidya, married to Basavaraju M five years ago, is survived by a 4-year-old son. The duo had met through a matrimony site. Basavaraj was running an automobile shop on Sarjapur Road.

In a video statement recorded from her deathbed, Vidya had alleged that her husband frequently locked her inside their house and was body shaming her after delivering a kid. She said, on the night of Feb 26, 2025, Basavaraju injected her right thigh while she was asleep. She woke up the next evening in severe pain.

Vidya sought treatment on March 7 at the Attibele government hospital, from where she was referred to a private hospital. Medical examination revealed the presence of mercury in her body, following which her health deteriorated rapidly. Her kidneys were severely damaged, and she was under dialysis since March.

After her condition worsened, she was shifted to Victoria Hospital. Based on her medico-legal statement, Attibele police initially booked Basavaraju and his father Mariswamachar for cruelty and attempted murder under Sections 85 & 109(1) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Following Vidya's death, police invoked Sec 80 (dowry death) and arrested Basavaraju, while his father is currently under investigation.

Cyclone Ditwah brings rain, cold wave to Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengalureans woke up to a very chilly and cloudy Saturday as the city felt the indirect influence of Cyclone Ditwah, currently moving along the Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coast. Early morning temperature plunged to 16 degrees Celsius, marking a cool departure from the seasonal norm.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) bulletin forecasts that light, patchy rain expected through Saturday afternoon will intensify on Sunday as moisture from the cyclone moves inland. The city is likely to see light to moderate rain or thundershowers throughout the weekend. Maximum temperatures are predicted to hover around a pleasant 24-25 degrees Celsius, while minimums will remain stable at 16 degrees Celsius.

Weather outlook

The Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre has advised that moderate rain may continue over the weekend.

Looking ahead, while the dry weather is expected on Monday scattered rain is possible again on Tuesday and Wednesday, before clearer skies are anticipated after December 5.

The current weather pattern is a direct result of Cyclone Ditwah, which was centered over the southwest Bay of Bengal and north Sri Lanka as of Saturday morning. The storm's proximity to the coast means its influence will extend deep into South Interior parts of the state.

Experts' advice

Meanwhile, health experts caution residents, particularly sensitive groups, as the city's Air Quality Index (AQI) remains a concern, fluctuating between poor and unhealthy due to elevated PM2.5 and PM10 levels.

The cooler, windier trend is expected to continue into early December, with minimum potentially dropping further to 15 degrees Celsius.

Cubbon Park flower show: Alternative parking to ease rush

BENGALURU, DHNS: Anticipating massive footfall on Sunday, the Horticulture Department has announced free parking arrangements to ensure smooth movement and visitor safety for the ongoing flower show at Cubbon Park.

With Saturday seeing huge turnout, the department is preparing for record crowds on holidays and weekends.

Speaking on the arrangements, a senior official from the Department confirmed that specific safety protocols and entry times have been enforced for the weekend. Entry to the flower show premises will be strictly permitted from 6 am to 6 pm only on Sunday. Tickets for the show will be available at all entry gates.

To address traffic congestion, the department has designated three key locations for free public parking.

Visitors can avail of complimentary parking at: Kanteerava Stadium, St John's, St Joseph's College (adjacent to Mallya UB City area). Designated parking space adjacent to the High Court can also be utilised for free.

The department has urged people to cooperate with traffic personnel.

GBA deploys medical team as apartment reports GE cases

BENGALURU, DHNS: A resident of Falcon City residential complex in Vasanthapura ward under Bengaluru South Assembly Constituency (Bengaluru South City Corporation limits) reported cases of gastroenteritis (GE) on November 12.

Based on this information, senior officials of the health department, along with a team of 20 staff members, visited the premises and conducted an inspection.

It was found that from October 6 to November 12, a clinic located within the residential complex had been treating close to three GE cases daily.

Immediate action was taken by deploying four medical teams, who conducted first-aid and medical outreach camps from November 12 to 27, providing health education and preventive information to residents.

As many as 177 residents received treatment at local and nearby hospitals. Water supply systems were thoroughly inspected and samples were collected from the main water source, storage sumps, overhead tanks and individual flats. These samples were sent to the Public Health Institute for analysis.

A notice has been issued to the apartment management, directing them to thoroughly clean and disinfect all water sources, storage sumps tanks and ensure that water quality is maintained as per WHO standards.

Medical teams from the corporation have been deployed in the apartment complex to provide healthcare services and conduct health education sessions for residents.

Foreign women inmates attempt assault on jail staff

BENGALURU, DHNS: A group of foreign women inmates at the Bengaluru Central Prison was accused of creating a ruckus inside the women's barrack and trying to attack jail staff. They also snatched body-worn cameras and walkie-talkies, which jail officers were carrying as a part of surveillance protocols.

A senior police officer said that based on a complaint by the jail superintendent, the Parappana Agrahara police have registered a case against five suspects - Simon Blessing Umane, Loutouan Attoua Lucienne, Celine Ese Ubokohwo, Anwale Marvelous, and another inmate - on the charges of violation of prisons norms and obstructing officials on duties.

According to the complaint, there was a delay in serving breakfast on Monday and upset over this they abused the staff and created ruckus, thus hindering service to other inmates. The officials examined the CCTV footage before filing a report and then approached the police on Friday to file an FIR against the accused. They stated that the women were habitually disobedient and repeatedly violated prison rules, the police said.

They were arrested on September 22, 2023, under Sections 8(c), 22(c) of the NDPS Act and Section 14 of the Foreigners Act for illegal stay, the police added.

BPharm student dies by suicide at PG accommodation

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 19-year-old student died by suicide by hanging herself at a PG accommodation in Soladevanahalli on Saturday.

The deceased has been identified as Vatsala R, a native of Hassan. She was pursuing her final year BPharm at a private college.

The Soladevanahalli police, who are investigating the case, said that the incident came to light at around 2.30 pm. The PG owner noticed her body hanging and alerted the police helpline.

The body was shifted for post mortem. No death note has been found. The reason for her extreme step is yet to be ascertained.

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India will need 30k pilots over 15 to 20 years: Union S&T minister

BENGALURU, DHNS:

The National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), a constituent of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), inaugurated four of its major projects on Saturday.

This included the unveiling of the Hansa 3 (NG) production standard aircraft by Jitendra Singh, vice-president of CSIR and Union Minister of State (independent charge), Ministry of Science and Technology.

Speaking at the event, Singh said the commercialisation of the indigenous aircraft would benefit India's growing aviation sector.

"India will need 30,000 pilots over the next 15 to 20 years, a big jump from the current 6,000 to 7,000 pilots, given that Indian airlines cumulatively have over 1,700 aircraft on order. Our industry partner, PCA, will set up the manufacturing facility at Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh. The facility will manufacture 70 to 100 aircraft annually and employ about 250 people. I am sure that this collaboration will accelerate the indigenous aircraft manufacturing, making Hansa-NG competitive on the global platform as it signals India's growing capabilities in the aerospace manufacturing ecosystem," he said.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh with Abhay Pashilkar, director, CSIR-NAL at the launch of projects in Bengaluru on Saturday.

At the event, Singh also inaugurated High Altitude Platform (HAP) Airframe Fabrication Facility, an initiative for a high-altitude solar-powered drone to undertake persistent surveillance, and SARAS MK II Iron bird test facility, a comprehensive, ground-based testing platform for integrating and validating all major aircraft systems.

The fourth was the launch of NAviMet, a system designed to aid safe landing and take off operations at airports, at HAL Airport.

The comprehensive weather monitoring system aids in measuring crucial weather parameters such as visibility, humidity, wind speed among others.

The new system is a combination of NAL's two indigenous innovations—Drishti and AWOS — which are currently operational in over 170 Indian airports.

Speaking to *DH*, the team behind NAviMet shared its plans to extend the use of the system beyond the airport, for example in railways sector.

On the occasion, CSIR-NAL also signed a collaborative agreement with Solar Defence & Aerospace Limited for the design and development of Loitering Munition (LM) UAV.

This LM UAV will be powered by NAL-developed Wankel engine and have a range of 900 km, endurance of six to nine hours, with service ceiling of five km.

KSR · Yeshwantpur · SMVT · **CANTONMENT STATION** · KR Puram

Four dead-end platforms added to handle Vande Bharat and suburban trains; new station buildings under construction on north, south sides

City's oldest rly station lies deserted as redevelopment drags on, footfall plummets

ASRA MAVAD & SHRADDHA A K
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru Cantonment, one of the oldest stations in the city, serves as both a historical landmark and a site of ongoing improvements.

Since June 2022, it has been undergoing a Rs 484-crore redevelopment, which has resulted in a drastic decrease in footfall as many trains have been diverted to other stations, leaving it somewhat deserted.

Ongoing construction has resulted in temporary closure of the counter for unreserved tickets, contributing to the drop in passenger numbers. However, amenities like toilets and waiting areas are well maintained.

A local shopkeeper humorously remarked that, given the lack of passengers, thieves in the area might be engaging in legitimate work.

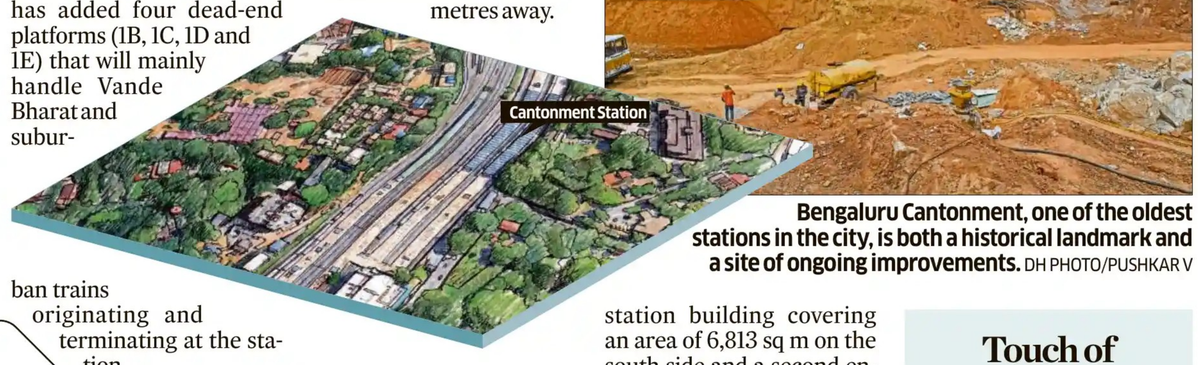
As per details shared by the Railways, the station has seen only an average of 24 theft cases each year between 2023 and 2025.

Bengaluru Cantonment has added four dead-end platforms (1B, 1C, 1D and 1E) that will mainly handle Vande Bharat and suburban trains originating and terminating at the station.

A metro station (pink line) is also being built about one km away, but the promised walkover bridge connecting the two has been shelved.

The station has good bus connectivity, but the old prepaid taxi station is no longer functional due to the construction work.

A makeshift auto stand has emerged, but ride-hailing apps remain the most popular mode of transport, along with Cubbon Park metro station, which is a few kilometres away.



Bengaluru Cantonment, one of the oldest stations in the city, is both a historical landmark and a site of ongoing improvements. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

When *DH* visited the station, a common query among both commuters and local vendors revolved around the completion of construction.

As per a South Western Railway (SWR) official, about 56% of the redevelopment work has been completed and the entire project is to be completed by 2027.

The station is being redeveloped at a cost of Rs 484.58 crore into a modern, passenger friendly hub. A new station building covering an area of 6,813 sq m on the south side and a second entry station building towards Miller's Road (north side) covering an area of 7,366 sq m are to be constructed.

The other proposed facilities include air concourse (3,860 sq m), waiting hall, VIP lounge, three foot overbridges of 12-metre width each, one pedestrian foot overbridge of 5-metre width, 12 lifts, 11 escalators, retiring rooms, dormitory and basement parking on both south and north sides.

HIGHLIGHTS

Rs 484 crore for ongoing redevpt works

56% of the work completed

Station has good bus services

A **Metro station** (pink line) is being built about **1 km away**

STATE OF STATIONS

Touch of heritage

Commissioned in 1864, Bengaluru Cantonment is the oldest station in the city and one of the earliest in South India. Built by the Madras Railway Company, it established a 149-km broad-gauge link between Bengaluru and Jolarpettai in Tamil Nadu.

Anekal residents deplore poor state of local roads

BENGALURU, DHNS

Hundreds of residents from Anekal Taluk staged a massive walkathon protest on Saturday, highlighting the deplorable state of local roads that they claim has left commuters suffering for nearly two decades. Over 500 people, gathered under the banner of Anekal Taluk Civil Struggle Committee and various joint organisations, marched from the ASB Government College Grounds to the Anekal tahsildar office to submit a memorandum.

The road connecting glass factory layout with the fruit market in Anekal is in a deplorable state.

The protest brought to light the daily plight of lakhs of residents, including workers from nearby IT companies, who commute on severely potholed roads. The memorandum pointed out that despite local bodies receiving crores in taxes, the government has failed to provide basic amenities. "Many people have fallen from vehicles and met with accidents. They are also suffering from respiratory diseases due to the dust emanating from the roads," the memorandum stated, noting that the poor conditions delay ambulances in emergencies and prevent farmers from accessing the APMC fruit market. Anekal Tahsildar, Shashidhar Madyal received the memorandum.

Activists call for protecting Bannerghatta Park

BENGALURU, DHNS: Environmental and wildlife activists have called for immediate action to protect Bannerghatta National Park (BNP), warning that a combination of infrastructure projects and the reduction of its eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) were severely fragmenting what they call the living bridge of South India's wildlife.

At a press conference organised by the Bannerghatta Nature Conservation Trust (BNCT) on Saturday, activists highlighted existential threats to the park, which acts as a crucial corridor linking the forests of the Western and Eastern Ghats, including the Mysore Elephant Reserve, Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, and Bandipur National Park.

BNCT's Kiran Urs, a wildlife photographer, stressed that the park's connectivity is vital for the movement and genetic exchange of wide-ranging species like elephants and tigers. "Saving these corridors is important because their destruction due to urbanisation and infrastructure projects threatens wildlife movement and increases human-wildlife conflict," Urs said.

Another activist Bhanuprakash said that the primary concerns revolve around the 2018 Central government notification that reduced BNP's Eco-Sensitive Zone from 268.9 sq km to 168.84 sq km. This reduction, which reportedly excluded areas with existing stone quarries, is feared to have opened up previously protected buffer zones to mining and commercial activities.

Adding to the ecological pressure is the ongoing construction of the National Highways Authority of India's (NHAI) six-lane elevated flyover, part of the Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) project, crossing a 3.85-km stretch of the park's core and buffer zones.

While the project has National Board of Wildlife clearance, critics argue that 'technological mitigation measures' like sound barriers and underpasses are insufficient.

Also a proposal to construct an airport near the Bannerghatta-Kanakapura belt, adjacent to the ESZ, was strongly opposed, with BNCT Founder Vishnu Narain stating that such a development would be an unsustainable development model.

Woman stabbed to death at construction site

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 23-year-old woman working at a construction site was stabbed to death in Seshadripuram on Saturday. The deceased, identified as Sharanamma, hailed from Vijayapura. According to police, the incident occurred around 7.30 pm.

Sharanamma had come to Bengaluru with her husband two years ago. The couple were working at an under-construction building. A known person reportedly came to the building, picked a quarrel with her, and stabbed her five to six times before fleeing the scene.

Police have recorded statement of Sharanamma's husband and have launched a search for the assailant. The body has been shifted to Victoria Hospital for post-mortem.

A case has been registered at the Seshadripuram police station, and further investigation is underway. The motive behind the crime is yet to be ascertained, the police said.

SBI
REGIONAL BUSINESS OFFICE – 02 BANASWADI,
No. 253, 4th Floor, Dolphin Mansion, Hennur Road,
Opposite Hennur Bus Depot, HBR Layout, Bengaluru-560043
Phone: 080-25944208 /25944212

PREMISES REQUIRED ON LEASE

The Regional Manager, RBO-02, Banaswadi on behalf of SBI invites offers from owners/Power of Attorney holders for premises on lease rental basis for Commercial / Office use having Carpet area of about **232 Sq. mt.(2500 Sqft +/- 25%)** for **SBI BUDIGERE CROSS** Branch to be located on main road, (in and around radius of 3 Km of Budigere Cross also considered) **preferably on Ground floor.** The format for submission of technical bids containing detailed parameters , place of submissions , terms of conditions and price bid can be downloaded from SBI website www.sbi.co.in under SBI in the news/Procurement News from 01.12.2025 to 22.12.2025. Last date of submission on or before 3.00PM 22.12.2025. Brokers will not be entertained.

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 30.11.2025

Sd/-
Regional Manager,
Regional Business Office – 02
Banaswadi,

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 10/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:10.11.2025

ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ.–IIIರ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (Double Cover System) ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ವಿವಿಧ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಯಡಿ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಕ್ತ ದರ್ಜೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಇಲಾಖಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ.

(1) E-procurement ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್–ಬಿ ಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.12.2025ರ 16.30 ರವರೆಗೆ (2) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.12.2025 ರಂದು 16.35 ನಂತರ (3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.12.2025ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ನಂತರ (ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದಲ್ಲಿ) (4) ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ (ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ): e- Procurement ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ(ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು Construction of Dormitory at KGBV-1 residential school & Hostle at G.Maddepalli village, Bagepalli Taluk. RDPR/2024-25/ BD/WORK_INDENT13789/CALL-3	2023–24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮಹಾತ್ವಾಕಾಂಕ್ಷಿ ಯೋಜನೆ (SSK)	90.38	181000.00	11 ತಿಂಗಳು
	Total		90.38		

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ. ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ
ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂ/282/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/2025–26

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Flower Festival: Flower exhibition as part of Karnataka Rajyotsava and Children's Day celebrations, various competitions for children and women, Horticulture Department, Cubbon Park; 6 am to 6 pm

Trust inauguration and Karnataka Rajyotsava: Dinesh Gundu Rao, Krishna Byre Gowda, Santosh Hegde, Dr Nagalakshmi Chowdhury, S R Govindu: Sharadambe Seva Charitable Trust, Shukra Hall, 1st Cross, Malleshwaram, 9 am

'Shakha to Nation' Book Release and Discussion: Ram Madhav, V Nagaraj, Srirama Devatha Thinkers Forum Karnataka, BMS Engineering College, Basavanagudi; 6.30 pm

Public meet against tunnel project: G Shashikumar, N Ravi; Prof C P Rajendran, Prof T V Ramachandra, Prof M N Srihari, Prof Renuka Prasad, Sudha Kamath: Nagesh Hegde; Save Bangalore Samiti: SCM House, Mission Road; 10.30 am

CULTURAL

'Varna Pallata' Drama: Shashidhar Bharighat, written by K Y Narayanaswamy, Kalagrama, Mallattahalli; 7 pm

'Naradi Vilas' Yakshagana Performance: Sudhir Bhat Perdoor, Prabhakar Hegde Sanmane, Subraya Hegde Moorur, Gurudatta Padiar: Nandikeshwara Prasaditha Yakshagana Mandali: Sringeri Shankara Mutt, Shankarapura; 6 pm

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	22.0°C
Minimum	16.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	63%
Sunset (Nov 30)	5:51 pm
Sunrise (Dec 1)	6:25 am
Moonrise	1:12 pm
Moonset	12:39 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಹಿರಿಯ ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿಯವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ ರಾಯಚೂರು
ಮೊದಲನೇ ಮಹಡಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ ಭವನ, ಮಿನಿ ವಿಧಾನ ಸೌಧ, ಯಕ್ಲಾಸ್‌ಪುರ–584102

ಸಂ:ಹಿಭೂವಿ:ಗಭೂಇ:2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:27–11–2025

ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಹೊಸ ಮರಳು ನೀತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕೆಎಂಎಂಸಿಆರ್–1994 ರ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ನಿಯಮಗಳಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮರಳು ಗಣಿಗಾರಿಕೆ, ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ (e-procurement) ಮೂಲಕ ಒಟ್ಟು 16 ಬ್ಲಾಕ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ.

ರಾಯಚೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ತುಂಗಭದ್ರಾ ಮತ್ತು ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ನದಿ ಪಾತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುರುತಿಸಿರುವ ಮರಳಿನ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು e-procurement ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಕ್ನಿಕಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ಫೈನಾನ್ಸಿಯಲ್ ಇ– ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಒಳಪಡಿಸಿ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಕಾರ್ಯ ವಿಧಾನಗಳು ಪೂರೈಸಿದ ನಂತರ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾದೇಶ ನೀಡಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ 05 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯವರೆಗೆ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಪ್ರಕೃತಿ ವಿಕೋಪಗಳನೊಳಗೊಂಡ ಅವಧಿಸಹಿತ) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ನೀಡಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದು, e-procurement ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ / ಕಂಪನಿ / ಫರ್ಮ್ ಇವರುಗಳು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುವ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ ಮರಳಿನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ. ರಸ್ತೆ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ, ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು e-procurement ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಕ್ನಿಕಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ಫೈನಾನ್ಸಿಯಲ್ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DMG/2025-26/SE0180 ಮೂಲಕ ಒಟ್ಟು 16 ಬ್ಲಾಕ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ 3 ನೇ ಕರೆಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

3 ನೇ ಕರೆಯ ಮರು–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆದಿರುವ 16 ಬ್ಲಾಕ್‌ಗಳ ಟೆಕ್ನಿಕಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ಫೈನಾನ್ಸಿಯಲ್ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

1) ಟೆಕ್ನಿಕಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ಫೈನಾನ್ಸಿಯಲ್ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ e-procurement ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿ, ಬಿಡ್ಜ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.12.2025 ರಿಂದ 15.12.2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 05:30ಕ್ಕೆ 2) ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ e-procurement ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.12.2025. ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 05:30 ಕ್ಕೆ 3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡಿ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:17.12.2025 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 4) ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.12.2025 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಸ್ಥಳ: ಹಿರಿಯ ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿಯವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕೊಠಡಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಬಿ14, ಮೊದಲನೆ ಮಹಡಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ ಭವನ, ರಾಯಚೂರು.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುವ ಮರಳು ಬ್ಲಾಕ್‌ಗಳು 05 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಮರಳು ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರಿಂದ e-procurement ಮೂಲಕ ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರಿಂದ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತ e-procurement ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ c-procurement http:/kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಚಿಸುವ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು ಮರಳು ಬ್ಲಾಕ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಮುನ್ನ ಆಯಾ ಮರಳು ಬ್ಲಾಕ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಹರಾಗಲು ವಿಧಿಸಲಾದ ಪೂರ್ವಾಹತ ಷರತ್ತು/ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಖಾತರಿಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ: 1. ಟೆಕ್ನಿಕಲ್ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹರಾಗುವ ಬಿಡ್ದುದಾರರು ಮುಂದಿನ ಹಂತದ ಫೈನಾನ್ಸಿಯಲ್ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅರ್ಹರಾಗುತ್ತಾರೆ. 2) ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ರೂ 10,000/–ಗಳನ್ನು ಖಜಾನೆ–2/ಡಿಡಿ ಮೂಲಕ ಈ ಇಲಾಖೆಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರೋಸಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕವನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ http:/kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಪಾವತಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. 3) ಪಾಲಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು (ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08532–200647, 9449183943, 7026091877) 4.)ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಪುನಃ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, e-procurement ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯವನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಹಿರಿಯ ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿ
ರಾಯಚೂರು

DIP/RCR/560KSMCA/567/2025-26

Techie couple among 5 of family dead in AP accident

BANGARPET (KOLAR DISTRICT), DHNS: Five of a Kolar family killed in a head-on collision between two cars near Yemmiganur in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh in the small hours of Saturday.

The accident occurred when seven members of Chikkahosahalli in Kolar district, were travelling to Mantralayam in a Swift Dzire car registration number bearing (KA07 B9672).

Five members died on the spot while two others sustained grievous injuries. The deceased are: Satish (38) of Nellahalli, wife Meenakshi (26), son Rithvik Gowda (4), Meekanshi's father Venkateshappa of Chikkahosahalli and his grandson Bhavith Gowda.

Gangamma and driver Chetan, who sustained grievous injuries in the mishap, have been rushed to a hospital in Adoni. Satish & Meenakshi couple were working as software engineers in a private company in Bengaluru.

According to eyewitnesses, the overspeeding Toyota Fortuner car (AP 39 SS2020) rammed into the Swift Dzire car near Yemmiganur. Three people in Fortuner also suffered injuries in the incident.

Mantri Mall pays Rs 6.5 cr property tax dues

BENGALURU, DHNS: The developers of Mantri Mall have paid the Bengaluru Central City Corporation Rs 6.5 crore of pending property tax dues.

According to the estimation by the corporation, the property tax dues of the mall go up to Rs 30 crore. The mall has been sealed multiple times for failing to pay property tax dues.

Bengaluru Central City Corporation Commissioner Rajendra Cholan said that action will continue against properties that have not paid pending taxes within the jurisdiction of the corporation.

On Friday, Cholan visited Chickpet to review the ongoing property tax payment inspection drive and instructed the officials to prepare a list of all property tax defaulters, issue notices to them, and initiate the process of sealing properties if payments are not made.

DH
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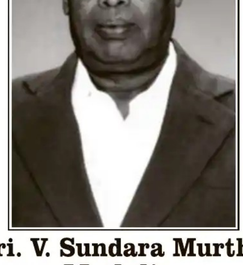
OBITUARY



We regret to announce the sad demise of
Mrs. Flavia Juliet Correa
W/o (Late) John Salvadore Correa
DOB: 05 /07/ 1936 DOD: 28 /11/ 2025
Home Viewing: 30/11/ 2025, 11:00 am – 1:30 pm at #65, 8th B Main Road, Jakkasandra Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560034
Funeral Mass: 2:30pm at St. Antony's Friary Church, Hosur Road, Burial at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Hosur Road
A tribute of love
Gerard, Marjorie, Ann & Karen / Vivian, Hazel & Shawn / Carol, Lauren, Leann, Andrea and families

23rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Sri. V. Sundara Murthy Mudaliar
Managing Director of M/S. Rainbow Engineering Company
Born: 19-9-1928
Expired on 30-11-2002
Fondly remembered by:
Wife: S. Babyammal
Son: S. Gunashekar,
Daughter in law: Rani Gunasheker
Daughter: Shanthi Gopala Krishna & Grand Children

K'taka tussle: Cong high command wanted to avoid national media glare

Top brass unamused with social media war between CM and deputy

NEW DELHI, DHNS

In order to avoid media glare during Parliament Session, the Congress high command decided not to summon Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his Deputy D K Shivakumar to the national capital to address the leadership tussle, and told them to have deliberation between them at Bengaluru itself.

Since the Winter Session of the Parliament is scheduled to begin on December 1, the party leadership wanted media attention on the session as it wanted to target the NDA by raising key issues, including SIR and American tariff on Indian goods.

Summoning the CM and DCM to Delhi, during the session, would divert media focus from issues planned to corner the Union government to Karnataka politics, a senior leader in the party told *DH*.

The party high command forced immediate intervention on Karnataka developments after they sensed escalation of power tussle issue following the war of words by CM and his deputy on micro blogging site X on Thursday.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar have breakfast at former's residence in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Unhappiness over social media posts

Both AICC General Secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal and General Secretary (in-charge Karnataka) Randeep Surjewala dialled to Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar and expressed their unhappiness over their social media posts and told them to delete it immediately. Interestingly, instead of deleting it, both the camps blamed each other for starting the social media posts. Both the leaders were in no mood to relent and did not delete the posts.

On Nov 27, 2025, at 8.21 am, Shivakumar in a veiled dig at Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, posted a cryptic message on X stating: "Word power is world power."

To counter this, the CM official X handle, at 6.39 pm the same day posted "Our word to Karnataka is not a slogan, it means the world to us."

When the matter on social media posts started beaming on electronics media, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, who was in touch with senior leaders Rahul Gandhi, Surjewala and Venugopal, decided not to invite both the CM and his deputy to national capital, and instead ask them to talk to each other and settle the 'issue' there itself.

Subsequently, Venugopal dialled the CM and asked him to invite DCM for breakfast on Saturday morning. He also asked Shivakumar to invite Siddaramaiah for lunch in a couple of days. Venugopal also asked Shivakumar to cancel his Delhi visit and stay put in Bengaluru.

The party top brass wanted to send an "all's well" message to the state and party workers through the breakfast and luncheon meetings between warring leaders, sources said.

Separately, Kharge, during his meeting with Rahul on Saturday, also raised Karnataka developments, where both the leaders decided to direct both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar not to come to Delhi and not to send any legislators' delegation to the national capital.

However, sources in the Congress high command told *DH* that the party has cleared the CM and DCM's visit to Delhi for a meeting with Lok Sabha members from the state to discuss the issues pertaining to the state, next week. Both the leaders were also invited to attend a Congress rally against the Election Commission on 'Vote Chori' on December 14 at Ramleela Maidan here.

The high command may give time to Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar after mid-January to discuss party affairs and the political developments, said the leader.

Leave politics to politicians, HDK appeals to seers

BENGALURU, DHNS: Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H D Kumaraswamy on Saturday expressed displeasure with seers getting involved in the ongoing power tussle between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D K Shivakumar.

A prominent Vokkaliga leader himself, Kumaraswamy appealed to seers of all communities not to concern themselves with politics. In the past few days, Adichunchanagiri Mutt seer Nirmalananadanatha Swami publicly expressed his wish to see Shivakumar occupy the CM's post, while the pontiff of Tinthini Mutt Sri Siddaramanandapuri chaired a meeting of Kuruba leaders to express solidarity with Siddaramaiah. "Religious leaders should leave politics to politicians, and they should not express their affection for politicians belonging to any community. This is my plea not merely to Vokkaliga seers but to religious leaders of all communities," he said.

Pointing out that he had not approached seers seeking help despite having lost the CM's post twice, Kumaraswamy said, "Religious mutts and caste must be kept out of politics."

Warning religious leaders of their statements favouring specific leaders triggering conflicts in society, the Union Minister added, "We should not get religious leaders to descend on the streets just to survive in politics. One cannot become the CM in the name of a community. The CM is the leader of the entire state, and not the representative of a single community."

Weighing in on the battle between Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah, Kumaraswamy said, "We are all watching the drama unfold, and waiting for the climax. But this is embarrassing not just for the Congress, but for the entire state."

Airlines race to update software after Airbus alert

Airlines, from Page 3

The upgrades were undertaken at the airlines' bases in Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Kolkata.

On Saturday, DGCA issued an Airworthiness Directive to airlines asking them to carry out the "mandatory modifications" following Airbus issuing an alert to operators globally and the European Aviation Safety Authority (EASA) coming out with an Emergency Airworthiness Directive regarding the potential issue.

In a statement, IndiGo said it was undertaking all required inspections and updates to its A320 family aircraft in full accordance with directives issued by EASA and Airbus. It said no flights have been cancelled as a result of these checks though a few flights "may experience minimal delays".

Air India also said there have been no cancellations and no major impact on schedule integrity across its network. However, it said some flights may be slightly delayed or rescheduled. "We have already completed the reset on over 40% of our aircraft that are impacted by this, and are confident of covering the entire fleet within the timeline prescribed by EASA," it said.

Bhu Suraksha: Scanning of 40 cr pages by Feb, says Krishna Byre Gowda

'People can obtain certified copies of scanned documents online'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Saturday directed officials to make sure that the ambitious Bhu Suraksha programme of digitising land records is completed by the end of February next year.

"We're digitising all original and source documents under the Bhu Suraksha programme. So far, 53 crore pages have been scanned. Another 40 crore pages remain," Gowda said.

"Daily, 17.5 lakh pages are being scanned. At this rate, I've directed deputy commissioners that the entire work should be completed by February-end," the minister said, adding that the government had provided necessary computers, scanners, data-entry operators and funds.

Under Bhu Suraksha, Gowda said the government does not want original documents to get lost.

"Also, over time, documents get damaged. Plus, in some places, citizens seeking documents face problems with officials making it a habit to say that the required papers aren't available," he said. "All the scanned documents have been made available online. People can go to the Bhu Suraksha web portal and obtain a certified copy without having to visit our offices," Gowda said.

The Bhu Suraksha programme started with taluk offices. It has not expanded to the offices of assistant commissioners (AC) and deputy commissioners (DC). "By March next year, (scanning) work will be completed in the AC and DC offices," Gowda said.

Scanning of documents

The work of scanning documents will also start in the registration department, the minister said. "All property registration records prior to 2004 will be scanned," he said. "We're also bringing land acquisition records under Bhu Suraksha," he added.

Gowda, who reflected on two-and-a-half years as revenue minister, said he has tried to identify and solve problems. "There's contentment about the work done so far. There's a lot that needs to be done. We're aware of the challenges," he said.

The minister is especially proud of the work done so far on Phodi (delineation of boundaries). "Between 2018 and 2023, phodi was done in 8,500 cases. After I took office, in just one year, 1.49 lakh plots were taken up for phodi work," he said.

Gowda is also pushing for progress in pauti khata (transfer of ownership from a dead person to a legal heir). A mission was taken up to transfer the ownership of 40 lakh plots from dead persons to their legal heirs. "Due to family disputes, we've done only 3.2 lakh pauti khatas," he said.

Leaders of Opposition Chalavadi Narayanaswamy and R Ashoka, Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy take part in the BJP-JD(S) coordination committee meeting in Bengaluru on Saturday. DH PHOTO/M S MANJUNATH

BJP, JD(S) want Belagavi session of legislature to be extended to 20 days

Alliance partners want more time to discuss issues concerning North Karnataka

BENGALURU, DHNS

The BJP and JD(S) will press for extending the upcoming Winter Session of the Karnataka legislature at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi to 20 days so as to table more issues affecting North Karnataka for discussion.

The allies held a co-ordination committee meeting chaired by Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Saturday to devise strategies for the upcoming Winter Session. Among the issues that the two opposition parties are likely to raise in the House include the state government's apathy to the plight of flood victims, cancellation of Below Poverty Line (BPL) cards, and deterioration of law and order.

"Legislators from North Karnataka are of the opinion that having the Winter Session in Belagavi has become a ceremonial gesture," said Kumaraswamy, affirming that legislators from the BJP and JD(S) would put up a united front in the House.

'Deterioration of law and order in the state'

Siddaramaiah's Chief Ministerial tenure is marked by deterioration of law and order in the state, opined Kumaraswamy.

Expressing dismay over the involvement of police personnel in robberies, the Union Minister added, "We witnessed this during Siddaramaiah's previous stint as CM as well. Besides, all of us know what is happening inside Parappana Agrahara Central Prison in Bengaluru."

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka confirmed that the two parties would ask for the Winter Session to be held over 20 days.

'Govt is focussed only on clearing bills'

Expressing his frustration with the Congress government, Ashoka added, "We have repeatedly expressed our wish to discuss issues concerning North Karnataka in the House, but the government is focussed only on clearing bills. We want promises made by this government to the farmers and people of North Karnataka to be fulfilled."

Fatalities on Bengaluru's pothole-riddled roads and condition of state-run schools are some of the other issues that the opposition is likely to corner the government on.

'No more confusion': Cong gets Siddu, DKS to announce ceasefire

Siddu, from Page 3

"My faction is Congress. In 2013, when Siddaramaiah didn't make me a minister for a few months saying that the high command asked him to wait, I said nothing. Even now, I'll go by the high command's decision," he said.

Shivakumar described himself as "a loyal party soldier" and said: "I know that the party is in a difficult stage in the country. But in Karnataka, I'm confident we'll make a comeback by retaining power." Over breakfast, both leaders discussed concerns over the government getting bad press and the factions becoming stronger. They are said to have decided to place their respective demands before the high command whenever they are summoned to Delhi.

Congress general secretary KC Venugopal had rung up Chief Minister's Legal Advisor AS Ponnanna and said that Shivakumar should be invited for breakfast. "In fact, Shivakumar invited me to his place," Siddaramaiah said. "I told him I'd visit his place for lunch someday."

Blend of ambition & tradition: More B'luru women opting for egg freezing

Gynaecologists, from Page 3

Speaking to *DH*, a 30-year-old woman said she chose to freeze her eggs as she didn't want to give up on career opportunities. "I had good opportunities as soon as I completed my masters. I landed myself in a project wherein I would have to work in the US for the next four years. Marriage was a big 'No' till I completed the project. That's when a friend suggested egg freezing. Whether married or not, I opted for it at an age when I was less stressed," she spoke on the condition of anonymity.

That apart, egg freezing is also a great option for women with medical conditions. "From a medical perspective, it is an essential one for female patients with endometriosis and those who will be treated with cancer therapies which may lead to loss of the ovaries' function. For these women, the freezing of their eggs will be an insurance which will enable them to have a child of their own later on," said Dr Pallavi Prasad, Fertility Specialist at a fertility centre in Basaveshwara Nagar.

Doctors advise that women should opt for egg freezing before they turn 30.

"Fertility declines sharply after 35, and egg quality is the first to drop. Freezing eggs in your late twenties or early thirties keeps that biological clock from dictating every life decision. I tell my patients that it gives you more breathing room — emotionally and medically," Dr Pranathi said.

It is also important to follow a healthy lifestyle before the procedure. "Following a healthy lifestyle for 3-6 months prior to the intervention — without smoking and drinking, good sleep and nutrition — will help get a favourable result," said Dr Nayana D H, Consultant–IVF at a hospital in Whitefield.

Once frozen, the eggs can be kept healthy for up to ten years or more.

"With modern vitrification procedures we employ now, as opposed to slow freezing used earlier, eggs can be stored safely for many years without a meaningful decline in quality. The freezing process halts all biological activity, so the eggs retain the age and genetic potential they had at the time of retrieval," said Dr Anupama Ashok, Senior Consultant, Fertility Expert at a fertility hospital in Hebbal.

In Bengaluru, the cost of egg freezing varies between Rs 1.2 lakh and Rs 2.5 lakh along with an annual fee between Rs 10,000 and Rs 30,000. Many fertility clinics and specialised hospitals provide such services and owing to an increase in interest, many hospitals have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with such clinics or hospitals to enable egg freezing.

Leopard endangering human lives shot dead in C'magaluru

TARIKERE (CHIKKAMAGALURU DISTRICT, DHNS): A leopard that had posed a serious threat to humans and livestock in the taluk for several days was shot dead by a special team of the Forest Department near Bhairapura village on Saturday, according to a press release issued by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bhadravathi Division.

The release stated that the leopard had not only killed a five-year-old girl, who lived in a shed near a stone quarry close to the forests of Shivapura village in the Tarikere range, but had also been roaming the hills, villages, ponds, streams, and estates in and around Nandi, Kenchapura, Kenchapura Gate, and Bhairapura villages, exhibiting extremely dangerous behaviour that threatened human lives.

Since it was essential to capture the leopard immediately to prevent further tragedies — and realising that any delay in the capture would endanger more lives — the department launched the operation with permission from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests in Bengaluru.

To capture the leopard, veterinarians from Mangaluru, Bandipur, Bannerghatta, and the Tyavarekoppa zoo in Shivamogga were pressed to service on Saturday, along with three elephants from Sakrebail. The Leopard Task Force from Mysuru and the Elephant Task Force from Chikkamagaluru were also called in for the operation.

While searching for the leopard near Bhairapura village, the team spotted it entering a dense patch of lantana bushes.

The area was surrounded, and Mangaluru-based veterinarian Dr Yashaswi, his assistant, and two armed staff members entered the lantana thicket to tranquillise the animal. Suddenly, the leopard sprang out and attempted to attack the personnel. For the safety of the team, a shot was fired. The leopard then fled, but after a search, it was later found dead at a distance. The carcass has been taken into custody, and further procedures are being followed, the release added.

The leopard exhibited extremely dangerous behaviour that threatened human lives. DH PHOTO

INTERVIEW

Prajwal case won't affect party, says JD(S) campaign committee chief

Datta: Doubts on our secular credentials a big challenge

Yagati Suryanarayana Venkatesha (Y S V) Datta, two-time lawmaker and a longtime JD(S) loyalist, has been appointed as the regional party's campaign committee president. Datta, a teacher-turned-politician, talks to **Rashmi Belur** of *DH* about the party's silver jubilee and its future. Excerpts:

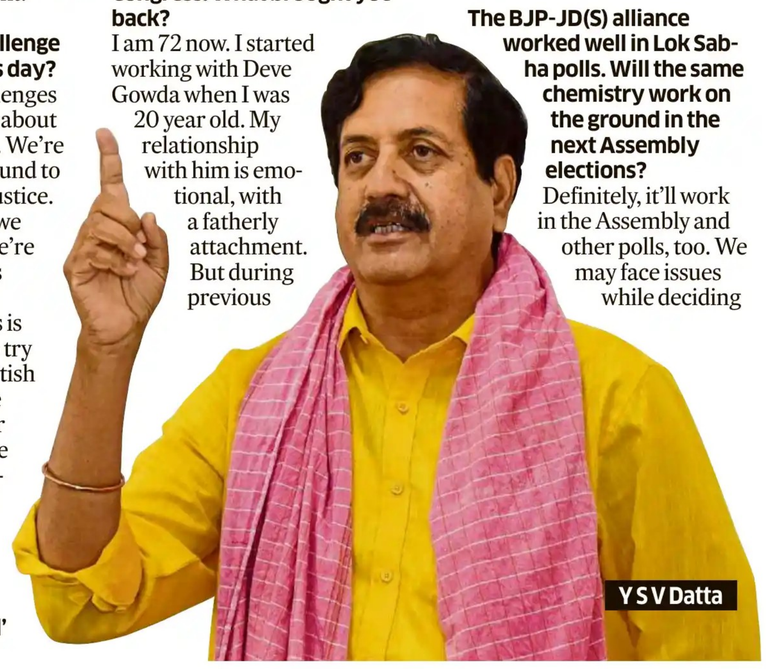
Do you agree that it is rare for a regional party to complete 25 years with national parties becoming dominant in Karnataka?
It's not easy. In my 50 years of political life, no regional party has survived this long. Karnataka has seen many regional parties, including those formed by former chief minister Devaraj Urs and the incumbent Siddaramaiah. Till 1977, only the Socialist Party was the opposition to Congress in Karnataka. In 1999, after division of the Janata Dal, JD(S) emerged as a strong regional party. We're alive and sustaining.

What, according to you, keeps JD(S) going?
Legacy. Of being the inheritor of the Janata Parivar. As far as Karnataka is concerned, Janata Parivar gave the best, people friendly governance. People still recall governments of Ramakrishna Hegde, S R Bommai and H D Deve Gowda as the best. We lost power because of infighting. But people of the state haven't rejected us. Although it was a coalition setup in which H D Kumaraswamy came to power, people still say it was a good government.

What's the biggest challenge JD(S) faces even to this day?
One of the biggest challenges is that there are doubts about our secular credentials. We're very clear that we're bound to secularism and social justice. It's not important who we are with (in alliance); we're bound to our ideologies and we need to make people realize this. This is why we have decided to try Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's model. No one can question his secular credentials. People have forgotten our pro-backward class and pro-minority works.

The JD(S) is still criticised for joining hands with 'communal' BJP.
We can't be communal just because we've joined hands with a party. None can call our national president (Deve Gowda) and state president (Kumaraswamy) communal. They are just like Nitish Kumar. Even today, Deve Gowda is the most secular leader who is committed to his principles.

You briefly quit JD(S) to join Congress. What brought you back?
I am 72 now. I started working with Deve Gowda when I was 20 year old. My relationship with him is emotional, with a fatherly attachment. But during previous elections, because of pressure from my constituents, I had to compromise on my ideology and party loyalty to join Congress. When I did not get a ticket to contest elections in Congress, people again forced me to contest independently. But Gowda convinced me to return to the party. I couldn't go against his fatherly love and emotion.


Y S V Datta

The BJP-JD(S) alliance worked well in Lok Sabha polls. Will the same chemistry work on the ground in the next Assembly elections?
Definitely, it'll work in the Assembly and other polls, too. We may face issues while deciding on seats. We need to follow a give-and-take policy. Being stubborn won't be helpful for any of us. Our ultimate aim is to come to power in 2028.

As the head of the campaign committee, how will you manage the damage caused by former MP Prajwal Revanna, a rape convict?
The matter is in court. The court will decide if he is guilty or not. Moreover, it was a case against an individual. It is in no way related to the party's activities.

Senior leaders like G T Devegowda are keeping away from the party.
It's not that G T Devegowda has quit, but he's quiet. My only aim is to bring everyone who has quit back to the party fold. I have confidence that I'll bring all of them back to the party and convince GTD to involve himself seriously in party work.

Can Kumaraswamy concentrate on the party while being a union minister?
Definitely. Kumaraswamy has a mass following. After Deve Gowda, it is Kumaraswamy who has a mass image. For our party, influence and image are more important.

Conductor, waste mgmt unit staffer clear KSET

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a heartwarming tale of success against the odds, a marshal working with a waste management unit in Bengaluru and a conductor with Bengaluru Metro Transport Corporation (BMTC) are among those who have cleared the Karnataka State Eligibility Test (KSET), passing which entitles one to teach at government degree colleges.

Having recently announced the results of the examination, the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) on Saturday verified the documents, following which certificates were distributed to those who had cleared the test.

K B Aravind, a marshal with the waste management unit, and Jayamma A, a BMTC conductor, were among those who received the certificates on Saturday.

While Aravind hails from Huliyurdurga in Tumakuru district, Jayamma is a native of Bengaluru. They are now eligible to be appointed as assistant professors at state-run first-grade colleges.

"Having completed a post-graduate course in Kannada, I started preparing for KSET, while working. It has always been my dream to become a college professor," said Aravind.

Meanwhile, Jayamma hailed the foolproof and transparent manner in which KEA conducted the examination. Incidentally, Jayamma had passed a test that the KEA had conducted to become a conductor. "I hope I am soon appointed as an assistant professor," she said.

Incentives to govt school teachers for good SSLC results: Minister

SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS: School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa said on Saturday that the government had decided to provide incentives to teachers of government schools that register good results in SSLC exams and have increased student strength.

Speaking after inaugurating the SSLC result improvement workshop organised for high school teachers of Shivamogga, Davangere and Chitradurga districts of Bengaluru division here, the minister said that there was a system of punishing schools that failed to record good results. Now, a system of identifying those recording good results was being implemented.

Madhu Bangarappa

He suggested involving the respective school development and monitoring committee (SDMCs) towards improving results.

A meeting of the SDMC should be held in each school from time to time and suggestions of the members should be sought.

'No forcible mergers'
The minister made it clear that government schools could not be merged by force. He instructed the deputy director of school education & literacy department to undertake the process only if the SDMC agreed.

50% in II PU must for pre-primary guest teachers

BENGALURU, DHNS: The guest teachers at pre-primary sections of government schools must have secured at least 50% in II PU, besides having a diploma in Nursery Teacher Education or Pre-School Teacher Education or Diploma in Early Childhood Education or BEd (nursery).

Also, the department of school education and literacy has mandated that each pre-primary section must have a dedicated teacher and a helper. While each teacher will be paid a monthly salary of Rs 12,000, helpers will receive Rs 6,250 for 10 months, reads a department circular.

Government of Karnataka
Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Ballari Sub-Division, Ballari
Telephone No.: 08392-240797
E-mail:- acfbellary@gmail.com

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ballari Sub-Division, Ballari Vide Notification A1/BGT/KMERC/Tender/CR-23/2025-26 Dated: 18.11.2025. Invites tender in two cover bids (Technical and Financial) under E-procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in for **Construction of Soil Moisture Conservation Works/ Protection works (Civil Works) under KMERC-CEPMIZ Scheme.** Contractor Registered in PWD Department during-2025-26 contactors can apply. First call of Tender will be Date:-04.12.2025 up to 5.00 PM and Second Call of Tender on Date: 15.12.2025 up to 5.00 PM. The further details of the tender can be obtained from this office during office hours in person or logging on to the E-procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.

Sd/-Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Ballari Sub-Division, Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/717/KSMCA/2025-26

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Lakes, Zone-1, BWCC, No.118, 1st Floor, IPP Centre, 16th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560 003.
No. EE/Lakes/BWCC/PR/01/2025-26 Date: 29.11.2025

INVITATION TO TENDER (ITT),
(Single Cover Tender), (Through GOK KPP Portal only)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Executive Engineer, Lakes, Zone-1, BWCC, Bengaluru, invites item rate tenders from registered contractors of (Greater Bengaluru Authority) (BBMP), KPWD/CPWD/Railways/MES or any State Govt. Organisations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category
1.	**Package-1:** (1) Annual Maintenance of Dasarahalli Lake & (2) Annual Maintenance of Nelgadrahalli Lake. **Approximate value of work (₹. in Lakhs): 42.00, EMD in ₹. 84,000/-. (Others).**
2.	**Package-2:** (1) Annual Maintenance of Doddabidarakallu Lake & (2) Annual Maintenance of Shivapura Lake **Approximate value of work (₹. in Lakhs): 42.00, EMD in ₹. 42,000/-. (Cat II A).**
3.	**Package-3:** (1) Annual Maintenance of Kodigehalli Lake & (2) Annual Maintenance of Vishwaneedum Lake & (3) Annual Maintenance of Herohalli Lake. **Approximate value of work (₹. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD in ₹. 50,000/-. (SC).**
4.	**Package-4:** (1) Annual Maintenance of Lingadeeranahali (Handralli) Lake & (2) Annual Maintenance of Handralli Lake. **Approximate value of work (₹. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD in ₹. 80,000/-. (Others).**
5.	**Package-5:** (1) Annual Maintenance of Ullala Lake, (2) Annual Maintenance of Chikkabasthi Lake & (3) Annual Maintenance of Mangammanahalli Lake. **Approximate value of work (₹. in Lakhs): 44.00, EMD in ₹. 44,000/-. (SC).**
6.	**Package-6:** (1) Annual Maintenance of Dubasiplaya Lake & (2) Annual Maintenance of Kengeri Lake. **Approximate value of work (₹. in Lakhs): 45.00, EMD in ₹. 90,000/-. (Others).**
7.	**Package-7:** (1) Annual Maintenance of Mallathahalli Lake, (2) Annual Maintenance of Nagarabhavi Lake & (3) Annual Maintenance of Soolikere Lake. **Approximate value of work (₹. in Lakhs): 45.00, EMD in ₹. 45,000/-. (ST).**
8.	**Package-8:** (1) Annual Maintenance of Bheemana Katte, (2) Annual Maintenance of Pattanagere/ Kenchenhalli Lake & (3) Annual Maintenance of Srigandadakaval & (4) Annual Maintenance of Halage Vaderahalli Lake. **Approximate value of work (₹. in Lakhs): 42.00, EMD in ₹. 84,000/-. (Others).**
9.	**Package-9:** (1) Annual Maintenance of Gandhinagara Hosakere Lake & (2) Annual Maintenance of Nagarabhavi Lake. **Approximate value of work (₹. in Lakhs): 42.50, EMD in ₹. 85,000/-. (Others).**
10.	**Package-10:** (1) Annual Maintenance of Chikkagowdanapalya Lake, (2) Annual Maintenance of Busegowdana Lake, (3) Annual Maintenance of Mylasandra (Sunnakallu Palya) Lake & (4) Annual Maintenance of Kannali Lake. **Approximate value of work (₹. in Lakhs): 42.50, EMD in ₹. 42,500/-. (Cat-1)**
11.	**Package-11:** (1) Annual Maintenance of Konasandra Lake, (2) Annual Maintenance of H Gollahalli Kere, **(3)** Annual Maintenance of Varahasandra Lake & **(4)** Annual Maintenance of Bhimana Kuppe Lake. **Approximate value of work (₹. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD in ₹. 1,00,000/-. (Others).**

Calendar of Events: (1) Availability of Tender documents from **02.12.2025 after 10:00 a.m. (2)** Last Date for receipt of Tenders: **10.12.2025 upto 4:00 p.m. (3)** Opening of Tender bid: **11.12.2025 at 4:30 p.m.**
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Lakes-Zone-1, BWCC.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಡಿ.ಸುಬ್ಬಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು-04
ದೂ: 0821-2490025, ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ : ddpimys@gmail.com&ddpi.edu.karmys@kar.nic.in
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಎ8/(ಟಿ4)/ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಎಸ್/ಕಲಿಕಾ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿ/2024-25 5ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.11.2025

ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(Notice Inviting Short Term Tender Through E-Procurement)

2025-26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಎಸ್ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಲ್ಯಾಬ್ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಪರಿಕರಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿ ಮಾಡಲು ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇಚ್ಛೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000 ರ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವರ್ಧಾತ್ಮಕ ದರಗಳಿಗೆ "ಇ" ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರು ಇ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವುದು.

(1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **19.11.2025** (2) ಟೆಂಟರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ : **85.35 ಲಕ್ಷ** (3) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಡೌನ್ ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **19.11.2025** (4) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **19.11.2025 ರಿಂದ 04.12.2025** (5) Technical Bid ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ, ವೇಳೆ ಮತ್ತು ದಿನಾಂಕ ಡಿಡಿಪಿಐ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು (6) Financial Bid ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ, ವೇಳೆ ಮತ್ತು ದಿನಾಂಕ : ಡಿಡಿಪಿಐ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು (7) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ : **ರೂ. 1,70,700/-** (8) ವ್ಯವಹರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಳಾಸ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಡಿ.ಸುಬ್ಬಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು - 04. E-mail : ld:ddpimys@gmail.com & ddpi.edu.karmys@kar.nic.in, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0821-2490025 (9) ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ : www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಪಶೀಲುಗಳಿಗೆ **NEFT (ONLINE)** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಆಸಕ್ತರು ನಿಗದಿ ಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು (ಆಡಳಿತ)
ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೩/ವಾಪ್ರ/1299/ಶಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯಿ/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ, ಕಾರವಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ
ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ – ಕಾರವಾರ
E-mail : dhoukannada@gmail.com Phone : 08382-226339
ನಂ: ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ-1/146/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29/11/2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

2025-26ನೇ ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಸಾಲಿನ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಉ.ಕ., ಕಾರವಾರ ಅಧೀನದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಳಪಡುವ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಬಾಹ್ಯ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸುವ ಕುರಿತು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ/ಎಜೆನ್ಸಿಗಳಿಂದ ಈ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ಡಿ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸಲು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಮೂನೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳು: (1) ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ 1.5%: ರೂ.3,06,359.00/- (2) ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಆರಂಭ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29-11-2025 ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11.00 (3) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10-12-2025 (4) ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17-12-2025 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 5.30 (5) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19-12-2025 ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11.00 (6) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 2,04,23,952.00 /-

ಮೇಲಿನ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂದು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ರಜೆಯೆಂದು ಘೋಷಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂದಿನ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕು. ಕ. ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ, ಕಾರವಾರ.
DIPR/ADK/KSMCA/782/25-26 dt. 29.11.2025

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Office of the Executive Engineer, Division-2, Project Implementation Unit, 9th Floor, Shopping Complex, 4th Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru-560011.
No: EE-2/GBA/PIU/TEND/01/2025-26 Date: 29-11-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover System)
(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), The Executive Engineer-2, Project Implementation Unit invites Request for Proposal from interested persons/firms those who have done similar nature of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for the below work through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer-2, PIU on behalf of the Chief Commissioner, GBA, Bengaluru.

Sl No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for "Construction of flood protection structures to SWD including RCC retaining walls, Water retention structures, Nature based solution structures / Bridges and culverts under Karnataka Water Security and Resilience Programme (KWSRP) with externally funded project (World Bank) in Bommanahalli Zone Package-1". **Amount put to Tender (Works): ₹. 16350.39 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹.2,45,256.00**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender Document may be downloaded Through KPP portal from **02-12-2025** (2) Pre-Bid Meeting on **06-12-2025** at **4:00** pm (3) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders is **12-12-2025** upto **4:00** pm. (4) Opening of Technical Bid is **15-12-2025** at **4:30** pm.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Division-2, Project Implementation Unit, Greater Bengaluru Authority.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, No 1, Buildings Division, S.J.P. Campus, Bengaluru
No. EE/Bld1/AE-2/2025-26/57 Date: 28.11.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

The Executive Engineer, No.1, Buildings Division,S.J.P. Campus, Bengaluru invites tenders through the e-Procurement portal of GoK **(http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from eligible tenderers (Standard Tender Document KW3 & KW4) for the construction/civil works at Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru, as per the below-mentioned indents:

(1) Arrangement for Assembly Sessions – providing temporary kitchen, dining, chairs, tables, partitions, barricading and others at First Floor, Central Hall, and cleaning and other allied works to Assembly Hall etc. during session. Tender Reference: PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT: 22905/ CALL-2

(2) Sweeping of roads and pathways, ground of Vidhana Soudha premises and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Road and Devaraj Urs Road, fountain cleaning, and other allied works. INDENT: 22855/CALL-2

(3) Maintenance of fire-fighting equipment, providing fire extinguishers, painting of fire lines, and servicing and repairs of water purifiers and other allied works. (Period: 01.10.2025 to 31.07.2026) INDENT: 22904/CALL-3

Period of Completion: **10 Months.** Cost of Documents: **as per KPPP portal**. Category: **Others.** Approx. value of work: **Minimum Rs. 86.04 Lakhs-Maximum Rs. 147.07 Lakhs** & EMD: **Minimum Rs. 1,72,100 to Maximum Rs. 2,20,600.** Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal **(http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 28.11.2025 at 16.00 hrs to before 16.30 hrs on 15.12.2025.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/DD-C.P/4096/KSMCA/2025-26

BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF I ADDL. DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE OF D.K. MANGALURU.
COM.EX.NO. 667/2020

Between:
KARNATAKA STATE INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
.....PETITIONER
AND
M/S. VEEKAY CLUBS & HOMES (PVT.) LTD. & OTHERS
.....RESPONDENTS

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR FLAT SALE

This is to inform the general public that in terms of the directions of the Hon'ble I Addl. District & Sessions Judge of D.K. Mangaluru dated 10.11.2025 passed in Com. Ex. No. 667/2020, auction sale of the auction property i.e. immovable property, Door No. 1-75/8, 1st Floor, measuring 2110 Sq.ft., (along with undivided right of 8.97% in property measuring 37 cents land) comprising in Sy.No. 32-2A, Bangrakuloor Village, N.H.17, Mangaluru Taluk, D.K. District, "ON AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" would be conducted by Spot Sale on 15.12.2025 and Court sale **on 17.12.2025,** subject to the following conditions:

1) The bidder shall be entitled to participate and make their bid in spot sale or court sale in their individual capacity and subject to making of payment of bid amount through their account only.
2) The bidders shall furnish copy of their PAN Card and Aadhaar Card before participating in the auction.
3) The bidders shall make sure that they are eligible to purchase the properties in question and they are solely responsible for violations of any statute.
4) The Partnership Firm/ Company/ HUF can participate in the auction subject to obtaining prior permission of this Court.
5) The auction will be held subject to above mentioned conditions and other general conditions applicable to court auction.

Advocate for Petitioner
(K. Radhakrishna Rai)
M: 8310222794.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
Chief Administrative Officer,
District Court, D.K. District, Mangaluru.

Government of Karnataka
Ayanur Sub Forest Division, Shivamogga
No.: ACF/Tender/CR-01/2025-26 Date : 27.11.2025

Short-Term CAll-2, Re e-Tender Notice
(Through e-Procurement Portal)

For the year 2025-26, under the expected grants and under various heads of account, including any changes in the places of execution of works, short-term e-tenders are invited through the e-Procurement portal for undertaking "advance works" (including cultivation of saplings) and "monsoon plantation formation" works within the various zonal limits under the Forest Department, Shivamogga, as mentioned in the e-Procurement portal.

Tenders are invited from interested forest contractors who: have experience in carrying out various types of sapling cultivation, preliminary plantation works and other tendered works in the Forest Department; have the necessary facilities to carry out plantation and sapling cultivation in the area of execution of the work; and are registered as forest contractors in the Forest Department for the year 2025-26 under the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act, 2000.

The last date for submission of tenders for the said works is 12.12.2025 up to 4.00 PM.

For further information, this office may be contacted during office hours. Official details of the tender can also be obtained from the website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests
Ayanur Forest Sub-Division, Shivamogga
DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/123/11/1304

TN on high alert as cyclone Ditwah lashes coastal districts

54 flights cancelled as storm approaches; red and orange alerts issued

A fishing boat being carried to a safer place amid gusty winds in view of Cyclone 'Ditwah', in Chennai, on Saturday. PTI

CHENNAI, DHNS

Despite showing signs of temporary weakening due to land interaction and persistent wind shear, Cyclone Ditwah drenched several parts of Tamil Nadu, especially in coastal districts like Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai, and Ramanathapuram, on Saturday.

Anticipating heavy rainfall, a total of 54 flights have been cancelled at Chennai, Thoothukudi, Tiruchirapalli, and Madurai airports.

On Sunday, about 36 domestic flights and 11 international flights from Chennai have been cancelled.

With the cyclonic storm expected to move towards the state on Sunday, a red alert has been issued in Tiruvallur and Ranipet districts, while an orange alert has been issued to Chennai, Kanchipuram, Vellore, Tiruppattur, Krishnagiri, Tiruvannamalai, and Villupuram districts.

After over 40 hours on land in Sri Lanka, Cyclone Ditwah returned to the open waters of the Bay of Bengal, with Kodiyakarai alone receiving 25 cm rainfall in the last 24 hours ending Saturday morning, followed by Vedaranyam (18.5 cm), Velankanni (13.36 cm), and Rameswaram (7 cm).

Chennai and its neighbouring districts received sporadic rainfall through Saturday, with forecasts saying that the intensity will increase on Sunday morning.

With the situation improving in Rameswaram, the Southern Railway resumed train operations on the Pamban bridge.

Independent weather bloggers and the IMD said the Cyclone will continue to give rains to the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu till Monday morning.

Though there were no deaths due to the rains, a tourist van was stranded near a canal in Ramanathapuram district, but no casualty was reported.

Revenue and Disaster Management Minister K K S S R Ramachandran said about 28 disaster response teams from NDRF and SDRF have been sent to various districts to handle the situation.

The minister said around 6,000 relief camps have been set up across Tamil Nadu to accommodate people who are likely to be moved out of their homes due to waterlogging.

HC terms cross-LoC trade with PoK as 'intra-state'

Dismisses pleas challenging GST notices for transactions with Pak-occupied Kashmir

SRINAGAR, PTI

Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court has said the cross-Line of Control (LoC) trade between the Union territory and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir constitutes intra-state trade under the GST Act, as PoK is legally a part of the territory of the erstwhile state of J&K.

The court was hearing writ pleas filed by traders who had engaged in barter/supply transactions with people across LoC during 2017-2019.

The petitioners have challenged the show-cause notices issued by tax authorities demanding GST, challenging the territorial and supply classification on various grounds.

A division bench comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Sanjay Parihar dismissed the batch of petitions challenging the show-cause notices issued under the GST Act in relation to the now-barred cross-LoC trade.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR AND LADAKH HC

"It is not disputed by learned counsel appearing on either side that the area of the State presently under de-facto control of Pakistan is part of territories of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

"It is not disputed by learned counsel appearing on either side that the area of the State presently under de-facto control of Pakistan is part of the territories of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Therefore, in the instant case the location of the suppliers and the place of supply of goods were within the then State of Jammu Kashmir (now UT) and, therefore, the cross-LoC trade affected by the petitioners during the tax period in question was nothing but an intra-state trade," the bench said.

Plea dismissed

"In the face of availability of equally efficacious remedy provided under the statute, we are not inclined to entertain these petitions and rather would relegate the petitioners to the statutory remedies available under the CGST Act of 2017," the court said, while dismissing the plea.

The petitioners contended that they had treated cross-LoC trade as a zero-rated sale, attracting no sales tax.

Blast-accused planned to recruit women

FARIDABAD, PTI

Dr Shaheen Sayeed, arrested in the "white-collar terror module" case linked to the November 10 Delhi blast, revealed that she had planned to recruit women to carry out the terrorist act, Faridabad police sources have revealed.

They said the National Investigation Agency (NIA) brought Sayeed, a former pharmacologist at Al-Falah University, to the university campus on Thursday in connection with the probe, and that during questioning, she revealed she had planned to recruit women for the mission.

Police sources also revealed that the NIA sleuths recovered Rs 18.5 lakh in cash, along with some gold biscuits and foreign currency, from Sayeed's hostel room at the university.

Accused in the Red Fort blast case, face covered, while being produced at the Patiala House Court, in New Delhi, on Saturday. The court sent three doctors and a preacher to 10 days' judicial custody. PTI

Earlier in the week, the agency brought Dr Muzammil for identification, and soon, the NIA could bring Dr Adil Ahmad for spot identification to the university. Muzammil and Adil Ahmad are two other suspects arrested as part of the probe.

Sources also revealed that Sayeed had also lived in Saudi Arabia for four years. She worked as a professor at a medical college in Saudi Arabia from 2014 to 2018.

During Sayeed's on-site questioning at the campus, the NIA team took her to the medical ward, classroom, and her cabin to gather details of her activities and contacts there.

A senior police officer said on Saturday that the agency has prepared a list of the people with whom she interacted.

The NIA team also took her to a chemical shop from where, according to sources, Dr Muzammil allegedly purchased materials to prepare explosives.

After about four hours of investigation, questioning and identification of several locations, she was taken back to Delhi at about 9.00 pm.

The ongoing investigation has revealed that Sayeed was active in terrorist activities while staying at Al-Falah University and was creating a network by connecting people here, the senior police officer said.

11 Maoists surrender in Maharashtra

MUMBAI, DHNS: In the fourth-biggest surrender in Maharashtra this year, 11 Maoists with a collective reward of Rs 89 lakh on their heads laid down their arms in Gondia district.

Deputy Inspector General of Police Ankit Goyal (Gadchiroli Range) said the surrendered cadre belonged to the Darekasa Dalam of the CPI (Maoist).

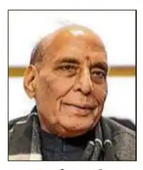
Those who surrendered include Anant alias Vinod Sayyana (40) from Karimnagar in Telangana. He carried a bounty of Rs 25 lakh.

"With the latest surrender, a majority of the insurgents, who carried a total reward of Rs 89 lakh, have now given up violence and are prepared to join the national mainstream. It is a decisive blow to the outfit's operational strength on the ground," Goyal said.

The others who gave up arms are Rani alias Rame Yesu Narote (30), Sheila Chamru Madavi (40), Ritu Bhima Dodi (20), Shevanti Raisingh Pandre (32), Pandu Pusu Wadde (35), Santu alias Tijauram Dharamsahay Poretti (35), Kashiram Rajya Bantula (62), Nakke Suklu Kara (55), Sannu Mudiyam (27), Sadu Pulai Sotti (30).

'Op Sindoor good example of civil-military fusion'

NEW DELHI, PTI: Operation Sindoor is a "brilliant example" of civil-military fusion, where the administrative machinery worked seamlessly with the armed forces to communicate vital information and build public confidence, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Saturday.



Rajnath Singh

The defence minister was addressing the valedictory ceremony of the 100th Common Foundation Course at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand.

Singh also called upon young civil servants to understand their crucial role in safeguarding national interests, and, akin to brave soldiers, always stay ready for such critical situations.

The defence minister asserted that, during Operation Sindoor, the armed forces destroyed the terror camps in Pakistan and PoK in a "balanced and non-escalatory response, but it was the misbehaviour of the neighbouring country, which did not allow the situation along the border to return to normal."

While he commended the bravery of the soldiers, he appreciated the work carried out by the administrative officers as they communicated crucial information and ensured the successful conduct of mock drills across the country.

He emphasised increased coordination between governance and national security to achieve the goal of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

Post Op Sindoor, Pak relocated 72 terror launchpads: BSF

JAMMU, PTI: More than six dozen terror launchpads have been shifted to the "depth areas" in Pakistan after Operation Sindoor, and the force is ready to inflict heavy losses on the enemy if the government decides to resume the cross-border operation, senior BSF officers said on Saturday.

BSF personnel patrol the Line of Control in Jammu on Saturday. PTI

However, the BSF is honouring the halt in military action after four days of clashes from May 7 to 10, they said.

"After the BSF destroyed many terror launchpads along the border during Operation Sindoor, the Pakistani government shifted all such facilities to the depth areas... About 12 launchpads are working from the depth areas of Sialkot and Zaffarwal, which are not exactly on the border.

"Similarly, 60 launchpads are working in the other depth areas away from the border," BSF DIG Vikram Kunwar told reporters here.

Kunwar, along with BSF IG, Jammu Frontier, Shashank Anand, and DIG Kulwant Rai Sharma, addressed a joint press conference to highlight the achievements of the force in 2025, including its role in Operation Sindoor, India's military response to the April 22 Pahalgam massacre with cross-border links that claimed 26 lives.

The officer said the figures of these launchpads, as well as the terrorists present in them, keep changing.

"They do not sit there permanently. These launchpads are generally active when terrorists have to be pushed (into India)... They are not kept in more than two or three groups," DIG Kunwar said while informing that there are no training camps in the areas close to the International Border presently.

The reports generally say that there is deployment in the launchpads, indicating training before terrorists are moved to other areas.

"Earlier, they used to have areas marked, where those belonging to Jaish-e-Mohammad would be active on the downside, and those from Lashkar-e-Taiba would be active on the upper side. After Operation Sindoor, they have formed a mixed group. Those who want can get training in a mixed group," DIG Kunwar said.

IG Anand said the BSF is ready to follow the orders of the government if it decides to resume Operation Sindoor.

Kerala CPM MLA Jameela dies at 59

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Kanathil Jameela (59), a CPM MLA in Kerala, died in Kozhikode on Saturday. She is survived by her husband and two children.

Jameela, who represented the Koyilandi Assembly constituency in Kozhikode, was undergoing treatment for cancer.

Jameela, a first-time MLA, earlier served as the Kozhikode district panchayat president. She was also a district committee member of the CPM.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said in his condolence message that she entered the Communist movement from a conservative family and was effectively taking up people's problems.

She had also proven her administrative skills during her term as the president of the district, block, and village panchayat.

Automatic listing of urgent matters in 2 days: Supreme Court

NEW DELHI, PTI: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant has taken steps for streamlining the listing of cases with effect from December 1, and circulars have been issued for the listing and mentioning of cases.

"All fresh cases involving liberty of individuals and where urgent interim orders are sought for, where the case is verified, after curing of defects, will be listed within the next two working days.

"To ensure expeditious disposal of all bail petitions, an advance copy shall have to be served on the concerned Nodal Officer/Standing Counsel for the Respondent 'Union of India/State/Union Territory," it stated.

According to the circular, in case of an exceptionally urgent matter relating to anticipatory bail, death penalty, habeas corpus, eviction/dispossession, and demolition, which cannot await listing on the scheduled date, the request can be made between 10.00 am and 10.30 am.

CYBER-WATCH

Now, WhatsApp & Telegram to work only with active SIM

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Centre has issued directions that would ensure app-based communication services, the likes of WhatsApp, Signal, Telegram, and others, are continuously linked to a user's active SIM card.

All players providing app-based communication services in India have been asked to submit compliance reports to the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) within 120 days from issue of orders. The department warned that failure to comply with norms will attract action under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, the Telecom Cyber Security Rules, and other applicable laws.

The directive would impact how users access the services of messaging apps.

Issuing the direction on November 28, the telecom department said it has come to the notice of the central government that some of the app-based communication services that are utilising mobile number for identification of its customers/users or for provisioning or delivery of services, allows users to consume their services without availability of the underlying SIM within the device in which the said platform or app is running.

"...and this feature is posing challenge to telecom cyber security as it is being misused from outside the country to commit cyber-frauds," it said.

The DoT asserted it has become necessary to issue directions to providers of app-based communication services to prevent the misuse of telecommunication identifiers and to "safeguard the integrity and security of the telecom ecosystem".

"The Department of Telecommunications, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it under the Rules, hereby directs Telecommunication Identifier User Entity providing App Based Communication Services utilising mobile number for identification of customers/users or for provisioning or delivery of services in India, to...from 90 days of issue of these instructions, ensure that the App based Communication Services is continuously linked to the SIM card," the directive said.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम चाईबासा

पत्रांक :–..... चाईबासा / दिनांक.....

:: शुद्धि –पत्र ::

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 2016 दिनांक 17.11.2025 द्वारा प्रकाशित अति अल्पकालीन ई– निविदा सूचना सं० **RDD/SD/CHAIBASA/80/2023-24(6th Call)** में निम्न प्रकार संशोधित किया जाता है। जिसका **PR No. 366423 West Singhbhum(25-26):D** है।

1. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय – दिनांक 04.12.2025 से दिनांक 17.12.2025 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
2. ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय –18.12.2025 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे

ह०/–
कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,
प० सिंहभूम चाईबासा

PR 367362 West Singhbhum(25-26)#D

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
INSTITUTE FOR DESIGN OF ELECTRICAL MEASURING INSTRUMENTS, MUMBAI
वैद्युतिक मापन उपयंत्र अभिकल्प संस्थान, मुंबई
Government Certificate Course on
Artificial Intelligence for Legal Professionals
Course Duration- 4 days
Course Timing 10.00 am to 1.00 pm
ऑनलाइन ONLINE
Course Dates: 7,14,21,28 Dec.2025
Email ID: training@idemi.org Website: www. Idemi.org Ph.:[022] 2405 0301/2/3/4
Contacts:Patent Analysis and Infringement Detection, Legal Research Contract Life cycle Management (CLM), Due Diligence, Fraud Detection & Forensic Analysis, Contract Drafting & Risk Assessment, E-Discovery & Litigation Forecasting & Judicial Analytics, Intellectual Property (IP) Law Corporate Law, Bankruptcy Law Analytics, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), Court Case Management, Legal Research for International & Cross-border Law, Ethics and Future.
Fees-5000+18% GST (fees are not refundable)
QR Code for Registration
After successsful completion certificate will be issued.
For- Lawyers, Legal Professionals, Students, and Interested candidates. Interested Candidates
हमें कॉल करें / Call us between 10 am to 6 pm
Contact -9403566219,8007765693,9866087617

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice for fhe Supply of Stores No E-25/2025

The following E-Tenders/ Corrigenda are published in IREPS website. Firms are requested to login to **http://www.ireps.gov.in-login->e.tender-goods & services (new)** and quote against these tenders. Manual quotations will not be entertained for these tenders. **Closing time for all tenders 14:30 hours.**

Sl.No.	Tender No	Description	Due Date	Quantity
1.	03245127A	Manufacture and Supply of 6MM Thick Nylon Cord	09/12/2025	475 Sets
2.	02256910A	Portable mobile digital radiography	11/12/2025	1 No
3.	15255004	Mobile Handset	11/12/2025	7415 Sets
4.	67255401	Supply, Fitment, Testing and Commissioning of Electrical Arrangements	12/12/2025	150 Sets
5.	06259003	Supply and Installation of Report Printers	15/12/2025	350 Nos
6.	06251093	Decorative Thermosetting Synthetic Resin Bonded Laminated Sheet	15/12/2025	2876 Nos
7.	68255907	Air Compressor (water cooled)	15/12/2025	30 Nos
8.	15250229	Silicon Iron Round 28 mm dia	17/12/2025	61040 Kgs
9.	78256465	Yoke for upgraded high tensile CBC	17/12/2025	3028 Nos
10.	78256682	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Retro Fitment of revised WSP wiring	17/12/2025	70 Sets
11.	04253470	Spheroelastic Silent Block	18/12/2025	891 Nos
12.	26255039	Traction Motor Type HS 15250A with Earth Brush Assembly	18/12/2025	16 Nos
13.	69255420	MPU400 Module	22/12/2025	5 Nos
14.	03255605A	RC for Manufacturing and Supply of 1 in 12 BG 60kg weldable CMS Crossing	23/12/2025	700 Sets
15.	29253292A	Transducer Current ITCC 1 and 2	23/12/2025	315 Nos
16.	78256541	Cast Steel Bolster	23/12/2025	40 Nos
17.	26250925	LED Based Headlight Assembly	24/12/2025	157 Sets
18.	16255018	Universal Axle Journal Turning and Burnishing Lathe	24/12/2025	1 No
19.	96255932	EOT Crane	24/12/2025	1 No
20.	03255655	Rate Contract for Manufacture and Supply of 6400mm Curved Switches	29/12/2025	156 Sets
21.	26252749	Microprocessor based Electronic Speed Indicating Recording and Energy Monitoring System	29/12/2025	65 Nos
22.	26251068	Set of Cylindrical Roller Bearing	29/12/2025	457 Sets
23.	26253560A	Radiator Unit	29/12/2025	21 Nos
24.	26250069	Set of Suspension Tube Bearing	30/12/2025	164 Sets
25.	03255657	RC for Manufacture and Supply of High Viscous Nylon-66 (HVN-66) Insulating Liner	31/12/2025	565714 Sets
26.	16255003A	Heavy Duty Lathe	31/12/2025	1 No
27.	03255635	Rate Contract for Manufacture and Supply of 10 MM Thick Composite Grooved Rubber Sole Plates	05/01/2026	1800000 Nos
28.	03255620	RC for Manufacture and Supply of Galvanised Metal Liner	07/01/2026	2280926 Nos

Principal Chief Material Manager

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, HAZARIBAG

e-Procurement Tender Notice Two Envelope System
Tender Reference No:- WRD/MID/HAZARIBAG/02 BD/SLI/2025-26
Letter no-1148 Date- 29.11.2025

1	Name of Work:	Construction of Chief Minister Solar Lift Irrigation Scheme Ledhiya, Block-Chouparan, District- Hazaribag.
2	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	**Rs. 1,30,53,000.00**
3	Cost of tender document (Rs)	**Rs. 10,000.00** only (non-refundable).
4	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	**Rs. 1,30,530.00** only.
5	Time of Completion	11 Months
6	Mode of Submission of tender	Online through www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in (As per SOP Issued by Information Technology & e- Governance Department, Govt of Jharkhand vide letter no- 120 Dated 03.10.2023)
7	Date of Publication of Tender on website (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)	Date: **15.12.2025 Time: 2.00 PM**
8	Last Date/Time for downloading of bidding documents and Submission of Tender on Website	**Date:24.12.2025 Time:5.00 PM**
9	Submission of Tender Fee and EMD	Start Date:-15.12.2025 Time:- 2.00 PM Last Date:- 24.12.2025 Time:- 5.00 PM
10	Technical Bid Opening Date	Date: 26.12.2025 **Time: 2.00 PM**
11	Officer Inviting Bids	Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Hazaribag
12	Contact No. of Procurement Officer e-mail of Procurement Officer	06546-270485/ Email Id- executiveengineerirri@gmail.com
13	Help line No. of Procurement Cell	06546-270485

Note:-➢ BOQ amount may be increase or decrease accordingly earnest money required, Work will be awarded to those bidders {specially MNRE approved channel partners/MNRE approved manufacturers/ MNRE approved PV system integrators/ A registered manufacturers/ Company/ Firm/ Corporation in India (including MSME of Jharkhand) of at least one of the major sub system namely pumps or PV System electronics (confirming to National/ International Standards)/ any other agencies having experience of installation and commissioning of such solar powered irrigation schemes}. Empanelled Indigenous Manufacturers of 10 **HP** pumps **(AC** Surface water Pumps) in the department with all accessories for off-grid stand alone SPV water pumping systems can also take part in the bid for executing the whole work of the bid. However those bidders who have not yet registered in Water Resources Department can also submit their bid provided they will have to get themselves registered in Water Resources Department within two months from the date of allotment of work.
➢Only e-Tender will be accepted.
Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer,
Minor Irrigation Division, Hazaribag

PR 367374 (Minor Irrigation)25-26*D

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KOPPAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (R), KOPPAL (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
ನೊಂದಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:KOL-S243-2012-13 ದಿನಾಂಕ:15–03–2013
Website: www.kimskoppal.com email: directorkimskoppal@gmail.com
Office : 08539 225522 Office : 08539-225523

No: KIMS/Koppal/Tender/2025-26/510 Date: 29/11/2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited for providing the following services for KIMS, Koppal under two cover Bid system as per KTPP Act 1999 rule 2000 KPPP portal of Government of Karnataka.
Tender Notification No and Date: 01. KIMS/Koppal/Tender/IT/ 2025-26 Date:01/12/2025
Particulars: Supply of Computers, Printers, Scanners and UPS to KIMS Koppal **Approx Cost (in Lakhs):** 101.26 **EMD Rs.**: 200000/-
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LEGAL CLARITY Pocso Act's universal mandate covers advocates

Child protection law trumps professional privilege

G V RAO

The question of whether advocates can be subjected to criminal action under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act, 2012, has gained renewed importance following recent court rulings, including the Gujarat High Court's September judgment, which refused to quash an FIR against an advocate for disclosing the identity of a child victim to the media.

The inquiry is not merely academic; it implicates the intersection of professional responsibility, statutory prohibitions, constitutional protections, and the overarching parens patriae (legal doctrine that the country must act as a guardian for those who are unable to care for themselves) obligation.

A doctrinal and jurisprudential analysis of the issue reveals that, both textually and purposively, advocates can indeed fall within the rigours of the Pocso Act. The structure of the Act leaves no room for profession-based immunity.

Statutory architecture

The Pocso Act was drafted with categorical universality. Across all substantive offence-creating provisions, the legislature uniformly commenced every offence with the word "Whoever". The deliberate use of this universal expression signifies that liability attaches to any individual without exception.

Significantly, where the legislature intended to identify specific categories such as police officers, members of the armed forces, or public servants, it did so explicitly in Section 5(a), 5(b), 5(c), 5(d), 5(e), and 5(f) while prescribing aggravated punishment.

The presence of these express classifications, along with the general use of "whoever", makes it unmistakable that no professional class, including advocates, has been carved out for immunity. Thus, an advocate is on the same footing as any other citizen for criminal liability under it.

Whether the allegation pertains to sexual assault, abetment, attempt, the use of a child for pornographic purposes, or disclosure of identity, an advocate outside the protective sphere of privileged communication and courtroom submissions is fully susceptible to prosecution under the Act.

Advocates frequently assert that their status as "officers of the court" confers them some protection or heightened deference under the law. While the status commands respect, it does not attenuate criminal liability. Courts have consistently held that professional obligations and criminal prohibitions operate in separate normative domains.

This means two things. One is that advocates are bound by the Pocso Act as citizens, and a breach exposes them to prosecution. The second is that they may also face disciplinary action under the Advocates Act, 1961, and relevant Bar Council rules.

Judicial precedent

In X v State of Gujarat, dated September 8, 2025, the Gujarat High Court refused to quash an FIR against an advocate who revealed the identity of a Pocso victim to the media and allegedly encouraged the minor to make a public statement.

The court described the conduct as "absolutely irresponsible as a professional as well as a human". It emphasised that advocates had no immunity under Section 23 of the Pocso Act, that the disclosure of the survivor's identity was a strict statutory prohibition, and claims of inadvertence were matters for trial, not quashing.

The ruling was significant because it was one of the clearest judicial articulations that advocates fall squarely within the sweep of the Pocso Act's penal framework.

In Hiralal Dhurve v State of Madhya Pradesh, dated March 10, 2022, the Madhya Pradesh HC upheld the prosecution of an advocate charged under Sections 19 and 21 of the Pocso Act for allegedly advising his clients — accused of raping a minor — and the prosecutrix to conceal material facts from the police.

The Special Judge (Pocso), Mandla, framed charges on the basis that the advocate, despite knowing about the offence, failed to report it and instead counselled the survivor to deny wrongdoing.

However, this judgement may require some reading down to be fair.

The applicant contended that such advice formed part of his professional duty in preparing a defence. The court held that the alleged conduct clearly attracted the statutory obligation to report offences under the Pocso Act, and could not be insulated by invoking the mantle of professional representation.

Constitutional backdrop

A subtle constitutional question arises if an advocate speaks to the media: Does the protection under Article 19(1)(a) override the overall Pocso Act's confidentiality mandate? Jurisprudence unequivocally answers this in the negative: The child's dignity and privacy, flowing from Articles 14, 15, 21 and the Preamble's promise, act as compelling state interests and justify restrictions on free speech. Thus, an advocate's speech to the press, even if framed as professional commentary or client representation, cannot constitutionally override the statutory embargo on disclosure.

Holding advocates accountable under the Pocso Act coheres with its purposive foundations: That the child's protection demands uncompromising confidentiality, that advocates wield public influence and a breach by them carries heightened harm, that legal professionals cannot enjoy asymmetrical privileges in a statute aimed at vulnerable victims, and that the normative trajectory of Indian child-rights jurisprudence supports a strict and unyielding application of the Pocso Act to all persons.

In sum, the legal position admits of no ambiguity that advocates can unquestionably be brought under the Pocso Act. Judicial precedent reinforces this conclusion, and constitutional norms further foreclose any claim of professional exceptionalism.

(The author is a senior advocate at the Supreme Court of India)

Accountability

- The Pocso Act applies to all individuals, with no exceptions based on profession. Every offence under the Act begins with "Whoever," making it clear that advocates, like any other person, can face prosecution under its provisions.
- Advocates are not immune from prosecution under the Pocso Act, despite their status as officers of the court.
- An advocate's speech cannot override a child's right to privacy under the Pocso Act, even if it's framed as professional commentary.

- Courts have upheld prosecutions of advocates for disclosing child victims' identities or failing to report abuse, confirming they fall under the Pocso Act.
- The child's right to dignity and privacy, protected by the Constitution, justifies the strict application of the Pocso Act to all individuals, including advocates.

Blow to Ramadoss: Anbumani is PMK chief, says EC

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

S Ramadoss' position in the power struggle for the PMK, which he founded in 1989, appears to have weakened after the Election Commission of India (ECI) officially recognised his son, Anbumani, as the party president until August 2026.

In a letter to Ramadoss dated November 27, the ECI said: "It is to state that if you are claiming to be the president of the party, you are advised to approach the appropriate party forum or competent court to settle the matter regarding office-bearers of the party."

The letter was in response to several communications he sent to the ECI seeking clarity on the PMK's leadership after he claimed, as the party's founder, to have sacked his son as its president.

The ECI recognising Anbumani is a body blow for Ramadoss, who founded the PMK in 1989 riding high on the TN government recognising Vanniyars — a dominant community spread across North and Central Tamil Nadu — as a Most Backward Community (MBC).

Now, Ramadoss has only two options left — concede defeat to his son, or launch a new party. Political analysts believe Vanniyars might still align with the father, and not the son.

A source told *DH* that Ramadoss was considering launching a new outfit with his daughter, Sri Gandhi, as his deputy.

He added: "If we have to assert ourselves politically, we have to be a separate outfit. However, launching a party isn't easy. One has to consider that Ramadoss is 85 years old and his daughter is a political novice."

PARI-WAR

- In a letter dated November 27, the Election Commission of India recognised Anbumani as the president of PMK
- Poll body advises Ramadoss to approach appropriate party forum or competent court to settle the matters regarding office-bearers
- Ramadoss has only two options – concede defeat to his son or launch a new party

Manipur's displaced people clash with security forces

IMPHAL, PTI: Hundreds of displaced people, seeking to return to their homes, clashed with security forces in Manipur's Imphal East district on Saturday, officials said.

The displaced people, who have been staying at different relief camps after ethnic violence broke out in May 2023, were stopped by security forces at Yaingangpokpi when they were marching towards their homes at Gwaltabi. As the situation escalated, security forces lobbed several rounds of tear gas shells to disperse agitators.

One of the agitators, S Ibemcha Devi, said, "According to the government, normalcy has been restored in the state. Then, why are we not allowed to return to our homes?"

An official said situation continues to remain tense but under control.

Bodoland University students protest against the Assam cabinet's approval of a report on granting ST status to six communities, in Kokrajhar, on Saturday. PTI

Bodo students oppose ST status to 6 communities

KOKRAJHAR (ASSAM), PTI: Students of the Bodoland University here on Saturday stormed the assembly hall of the BTC secretariat, and allegedly vandalised properties in protest against the Assam cabinet's approval of a report on granting ST status to six other communities of the state, officials said.

Hundreds of tribal students took out a 6 km march from the university campus to the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) secretariat, where they "broke through the barricades and closed the main gate, before barging into the assembly hall".

They "vandalised the hall by breaking chairs and other furniture, pulling out mikes, smashing window panes and throwing flower pots around", the officials said.

Additional security forces were rushed to the spot, and the situation was brought under control following their negotiations with District Commissioner (DC) Masanda M Pertin and SSP Akshat Garg.

The agitating students also submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, BTC chief Hagrama Mohilary and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs through the DC and SSP, demanding withdrawal of the report within 24 hours.

Govt sets stage for major bills in Parl

Health cess, security & excise reforms top the agenda on Day One of session

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The central government will introduce the "Health Security se National Security Cess Bill, 2025" in Parliament on the first day of the Winter session on Monday.

The Bill is aimed at augmenting resources for meeting national-security and public-health expenditure, and to levy a cess on machines installed or other processes undertaken by which specified goods are produced.

It has also listed the Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025, for introduction on the first day of the session, during which it will also pitch for a discussion on 150 years of *Vande Mataram*, even as the Opposition insists on a debate on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter rolls and alleged electoral malpractices.

At Sunday's Lok Sabha Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting, to be chaired by Speaker Om Birla, sources said the government is expected to urge the panel to fix the schedule for these two Bills, as well as the Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Bill. All three have found space on the List of Business for Monday.

The President gave permission on Saturday to the Lok Sabha for the introduction and consideration of these three money Bills. Details of these Bills are not available in the public domain.

The Lok Sabha BAC meeting is scheduled at 5 pm, and is also likely to fix the time for a discussion and voting on the first batch of supplementary demands for grants for 2025-26. A meeting of the Rajya Sabha BAC is also scheduled for Sunday afternoon.

What else to expect

The government, in the third week of November, shared a tentative list of 12 Bills it wanted to bring in Parliament during this session. Of these, a bill on Chandigarh to amend the Constitution triggered a controversy, following which the government said it would not be bringing it this time.

While the scheduling of bills may not be a problem, the Opposition is likely to insist on a debate on the SIR and other issues, while the government has made it clear it wants a discussion on the completion of 150 years of *Vande Mataram*.

DMK to raise metro rejection, labour codes in Parliament

The BJP-led Union government's systematic blocking of Tamil Nadu's progress through its biased approach in allocating funds, refusal to grant a metro rail network for Coimbatore and Madurai, and the Governor delaying his approval to a Bill on the establishment of a university after M Karunanidhi are some of the issues the DMK will raise in the winter session of Parliament, reports DHNS from Chennai.

The decision to raise about 10 issues was taken at a meeting of MPs chaired by party chief M K Stalin here on Saturday.

Stalin, in a social media post after the meeting, sought to know whether it was right for the Union government to ignore the people's voice while proudly claiming to be the largest democracy.

"No one with a conscience would accept the betrayal of Tamil NAdu, a state that contributes the highest tax revenue," said the chief minister.

Disputing EC's version, TMC seeks meeting transcript

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Trinamool Congress on Saturday asked the Election Commission to release the transcript of their meeting, disputing the version of the poll body, even as the Mamata Banerjee-led party accused it of putting pressure on Booth Level Officers leading to their deaths.

It said the EC did not answer any of the five questions the ten-MP delegation raised on the SIR exercise in West Bengal, which the leaders alleged was aimed at targeting Bengali voters. They also asked whether it doesn't raise questions about the Lok Sabha polls conducted on an electoral roll, which it says is flawed.

While TMC told the EC during the meeting that it has "blood on its hands" for the deaths due to the "completely unplanned" SIR, the poll body said it asked the party "not to influence or threaten" officials involved in the exercise.

Gandhiji's 'lack of unity' idea a British myth: RSS chief

NAGPUR, PTI: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Saturday said Mahatma Gandhi's observation about Indians lacking unity before the British rule was a false narrative shaped by colonial teaching.

Mohan Bhagwat

"Gandhiji wrote in (his book) 'Hind Swaraj' that we were not united before the British came, but that is a false narrative taught to us by them," Bhagwat said, speaking at the national book festival in Nagpur.

Written by Gandhi in Gujarati in 1908, and translated by him into English in 1909, 'Hind Swaraj' has 20 chapters and is written in the form of a dialogue between the reader and the editor of a journal/newspaper.

Bhagwat said India's concept of 'rashtra' is ancient, organic and fundamentally different from the Western idea of a nation. "We do not have any argument with anyone. We stay away from disputes. Being together and fostering fraternity is our tradition," he said.

"We use the word nationality, not nationalism. Excessive pride about the nation led to two world wars, which is why some people fear the word nationalism," Bhagwat said.

If we consider the definition of a nation as understood in the Western context, it typically involves a nation-state with a central government managing the region, he said. However, India has always been a 'rashtra', even under different regimes and during periods of foreign rule, the RSS chief added.

India's nationhood was not born out of arrogance or pride, but out of deep interconnectedness among people, he said.

BJP prepares Bengal push with meetings, rallies

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

SAFFRON STRATEGY

- Assembly election in Bengal, where BJP is yet to win big, promises to be a high-stakes one
- RSS and BJP held a series of meetings in Kolkata in September to coordinate strategy
- Saffron party to attack TMC, Mamata on several issues

With the Bihar Assembly election won, the BJP now has its sights on West Bengal. The Assembly election in the state, where the BJP is yet to win big, promises to be a high-stakes one, with the party aiming for over 160 of the 294 seats.

An RSS team has been in the state for the past few months, indicated party sources. In September, the RSS and the BJP held a series of meetings in Kolkata to set the strategy.

In the next months, bigwigs like Prime Minister Narendra Modi, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, and Union Home Minister Amit Shah are set to hold rallies in Bengal.

BJP sources said that internally, the party's focus will be to see through the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

"In Bihar, the Election Commission found 65 lakh electors who were either dead or had migrated to other states. The case will be similar in Bengal. We believe the deletions will ensure that there is no bogus voting," said a BJP leader.

Earlier this week, BJP president J P Nadda hosted a dinner at his residence, where Shah, seen as the chief strategist behind the Bihar win, congratulated as many as 45 leaders for the victory. He also told them that the same zeal should now be seen in the neighbouring state.

"Be ready for Bengal now," Shah reportedly said, adding that leaders could be sent anywhere next.

Dynastic politics

The BJP is also set to whip up a narrative that West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee is more generous with Muslims, who are around 30% of the state's population. It is also expected to raise the issue of dynastic politics, with her nephew Abhishek Banerjee taking over the ruling party's mantle.

Assam eviction drive displaces 1,700 families

GUWAHATI, PTI: An eviction drive was launched in Assam's Nagaon district on Saturday to clear encroachments from 795 hectares of government and forest land, where around 1,700 families lived, officials said.

The drive started in the Lutimari area in the morning amid heavy deployment of security forces and came to a close at 4 pm, but will resume on Sunday, they said.

Notices were served on the encroachers three months ago, asking them to vacate the lands within two months. They had requested an additional month to vacate, and the district administration agreed to it, an official said.

Over 1,100 families, living in both pucca and kuccha houses, had already left with their belongings, he said.

Altogether 2,070 kuccha houses and 192 brick houses and structures, including seven Anganwadi centres, two lower primary schools, a primary health centre and water treatment plants of the Jal Jeevan Mission were demolished, he added.

The eviction drive is being carried out at Bedetipar, Sankhula, Jurirpar, and Kendapara villages in the Greater Lutumari Forest Reserve.

Around 70% of residents of these villages had already left their homes following appeal of District Commissioner Devashis Sarma.

Eviction drive in Assam's Nagaon on Saturday. PTI

BJP alleges Cong-Maoists nexus

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The BJP on Saturday alleged a nexus between Congress and Maoists, and accused Rahul Gandhi of fuelling 'Naxalite sympathies', calling it a threat to national sovereignty.

In a post on X, the BJP said, "Congress didn't just fail on national security — they collapsed from within. A culture of appeasement and internal quarrels weakened India's fight against Maoist extremism."

According to the BJP, the perceived deterioration of internal security under Congress was not merely a series of missteps, but a systemic breakdown that endangered nation. The party argued that during Congress's rule, critical threats and internal vulnerabilities were consistently overlooked, leading to a gradual collapse of India's security apparatus.

Congress has dismissed charges.

RESIDENCY REVAMP Shift to a 10-year settlement route may upend migration patterns

UK's new settlement rules set to reshape Indian migration profile

GULSHAN SACHDEVA

Immigration has become one of the central political issues across the Western world. The United Kingdom is also on the verge of major changes to the post-Brexit migration system introduced in January 2021, from which Indians have benefited significantly.

Britain has launched a public consultation to overhaul its permanent residency rules, known as Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR). Central to the proposal is a shift to an Earned Settlement system, replacing the current five-year ILR route with a standard ten-year qualifying period for most migrants. This follows a controversial White Paper, Restoring Control over Immigration, which outlined a redesigned settlement pathway centred on compliance, contribution, and integration.

The proposal moves settlement away from an automatic route toward one that must be actively earned. Migrants would be assessed on four core requirements: meeting strict character standards such as a clean criminal record and consistent rule compliance; demonstrating deeper integration, including a higher English-language threshold of B2; showing economic contribution through regular tax payments and stable employment; and fulfilling a clearer continued-residence requirement to prove sustained connection with the UK.

While the standard qualifying period is ten years, the system includes flexibility. Some applicants may shorten the period, while others may face extensions. High earners could reduce it by three or five years if they meet income thresholds. Work in socially critical sectors—such as the NHS or teaching for five years—could also cut it to five years. Community service may shorten it by up to three years, and those with C1-level English could gain an additional one-year reduction. However, the system becomes significantly tougher for others. Medium-skilled workers may see their qualifying period extended by five years. Those who have received public funds could face extensions of five or even ten years. Applicants with violations may see their settlement period extended by as many as twenty years, effectively closing the door to ILR for a large number of people.

Dependants will also face changes. Under current rules, most dependants qualify automatically for ILR when the principal applicant does. Under the new proposal, dependants—except children under 18—would need to qualify independently by meeting the full set of criteria. This marks a significant tightening and could especially affect families who moved to the UK with only one primary income earner.

Changes are also proposed in post-study work opportunities. The two-year post-study work period available to Bachelor's and Master's graduates may be reduced to 18 months. PhD graduates, however, would continue to receive a three-year work visa, reflecting the UK's intention to retain highly skilled researchers.

These changes disproportionately affect migrants from India, who make up a substantial share of the UK's work visa holders. More than 600,000 health and social-care workers and their dependants—many of them Indian nationals—entered the UK during and immediately after the pandemic. Of these, approximately 616,000 arrived between 2022 and 2024 via the health and social-care visa route, which the UK closed earlier this year following concerns over exploitation and abuse by employers and recruitment agents. Under the new ILR rules, many of these workers may now need to wait up to 15 years to obtain permanent residency, greatly extending their path to settlement.

INDIAN FAMILIES HIT HARD

- Indians will be among the most heavily impacted groups, as they form a major share of the UK's work-visa holders—especially the 6,16,000 health and social-care workers who arrived between 2022 and 2024 and may now face settlement waits of up to 15 years.
- Dependants of Indian migrants will no longer qualify automatically for ILR, meaning spouses will now need to meet the full "Earned Settlement" criteria on their own.

The proposed reforms are being closely examined in India, not only because Indians benefit heavily from UK visa schemes but also because India–UK ties have expanded considerably in recent years. The upgradation of the bilateral relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2021 coincided with the introduction of the UK's revised migration system. Since then, both countries have emphasised enhanced cooperation in trade, investment, education, and people-to-people mobility.

The end of free movement with EU member states after Brexit marked a turning point in British immigration policy. While membership in the European Economic Community in earlier decades facilitated free movement with Western Europe, it also restricted migration from several Commonwealth nations, including India.

Indian migration to the UK has a complex history. From the 1950s, many Indians filled labour gaps in manufacturing, textiles, and the NHS. In the 1960s and 1970s, another wave arrived after expulsions from Kenya and Uganda. Migration slowed from the early 1970s to the mid-1990s, then revived under Labour's more liberal policies from 1997, especially for high-skilled workers in ICT and professional services. The Conservative-led coalition tightened rules in 2010, but in the years before Brexit the system again became more flexible to attract non-EU talent. Restoring the two-year post-study work visa later boosted interest among Indian students.

However, the idea of linking migration to the India–UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) has collided with the realities of British domestic politics. Public opinion—mirroring trends across Europe—has grown wary of liberal immigration policies. The Conservative government under Rishi Sunak faced pressure over asylum seekers crossing the Channel on "small boats", while the Labour government under Keir Starmer has also confronted a sceptical public mood. Nigel Farage's Reform UK party has amplified anti-immigration rhetoric, pushing major parties towards tougher positions.

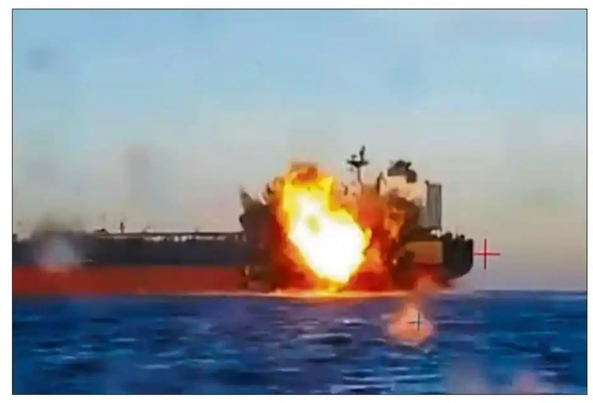
Mobility provisions have therefore not been included in the India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, and the 2021 Migration and Mobility Partnership—designed to support legal movement while curbing irregular migration—has had limited impact so far.

Nevertheless, many Indian students and businesses remain cautiously optimistic that the trade agreement may eventually generate new mobility channels. At the same time, stricter immigration and visa rules in the United States under the Trump administration are encouraging Indian students and skilled professionals to reconsider their options. The UK, once positioned to benefit from this shift, may now find itself less competitive due to shorter post-study work visas and a more demanding settlement regime.

Despite these tightening trends, most European nations continue to seek talented students and high-skilled employees to address demographic decline and labour shortages. Given its young population and strong educational base, India is likely to remain a significant contributor to international mobility to Europe, including the UK. The makeup of these migration flows may evolve, but the overall volume is unlikely to decrease substantially in the coming years.

(Prof Gulshan Sachdeva is Jean Monnet Chair at the Centre for European Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University)

WORLD AT A GLANCE



An image of a video grab shows smoke rising from a cargo ship hit by Ukrainian drones in the Black Sea off the Turkish coast on Saturday. The vessel is believed to be carrying sanctioned Russian oil. AFP

Pak army spokesperson criticises Indian Army chief's remarks

Pakistan Army spokesman Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has criticised the Indian Army chief's remarks that the 'Operation Sindoor' was only a "trailer", PTI reports from Islamabad.

With Operation Sindoor, "only a trailer was shown", India's Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi said in New Delhi on November 17 and asserted that if Pakistan "gives us any chance," India would like to teach a befitting lesson as to how a responsible nation should behave with its neighbours. Lt Gen Chaudhry, who is head of the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), said, "We can't do anything about a delusional mind." He made the remarks during an interaction with journalists on November 25, but the video of his talks was released late on Friday evening. "I think now he wants to watch a full horror film," Chaudhry said, reacting to the comments. India had launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the Pahalgam attack that killed 26 civilians. The strikes triggered four days of intense clashes that ended with an understanding on stopping the military actions on May 10.

Pak police arrest Indian national

Pakistan's Punjab police have claimed to have arrested an alleged Indian national who "inadvertently" crossed into the country and was detained by Pakistan Rangers for over 100 days without any legal formalities, PTI reports from Lahore.

According to police, the alleged Indian national, BJ Singh, 31, from Assam, crossed into Pakistan on August 16, near the Ajmal Shaheed Post opposite the Indian Bachan Singh Post. The police said that Rangers' personnel arrested him near the India-Pakistan border and interrogated him for over three months. Singh was handed over to Saddar police station in Kasur, some 50 kilometres from Lahore this week after nothing suspicious was recovered from him, they said. He had reportedly left his residence after a quarrel with his father Barshan Singh.

Sri Lanka reels from Ditwah; emergency declared

Over 150 dead as country battles floods and landslides

COLOMBO, PTI

Sri Lanka on Saturday was picking up the pieces after the widespread destruction caused by a powerful cyclone, with President Anura Kumara Dissanayake declaring a state of emergency throughout the country as the death toll rose to more than 150.

As harrowing accounts emerged of people either buried in landslides or swept away by flash floods across several provinces due to Cyclone Ditwah, India sent around 21 tonnes of relief materials in two military transport aircraft under its 'Operation Sagar Bandhu', a day after delivering the first tranche of over six tonnes of essential supplies.

As waters receded with the cyclone moving away from Sri Lanka, authorities warned that indirect effects would continue. The Disaster Management Centre (DMC) reported that the death toll from the adverse weather since Thursday had risen to 153. The DMC confirmed that, apart from the more than 150 deaths, 191 individuals remain missing as search and relief operations continue across multiple districts.

A total of 7,74,724 people from 2,17,263 families in 25 districts have been affected by the disaster, with many areas still facing flooding, landslides and heavy rainfall.

A man distributes bread to flood victims in Wellampitiya on the outskirts of Colombo on Saturday. AFP

Indian Air Force delivers 21 tonnes of relief material

The Indian Air Force on Saturday delivered 21 tonnes of relief material along with over 80 NDRF personnel and eight tonnes of equipment to Sri Lanka to assist those displaced by devastating floods, PTI reports from Colombo. "In the wake of the devastation caused by Cyclone Ditwah across Sri Lanka, India swiftly launched Operation Sagar Bandhu to bolster relief efforts," the Indian Air Force said in a social media post.

Imran's son demands govt to present 'proof of life'

LAHORE, PTI

Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's son has demanded the government present proof that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder is alive.

"We demand proof of Imran Khan's life," Khan's son Kasim Khan said in a social media post on Friday evening.

There has been speculation that the 73-year-old former cricketer-turned-politician has been killed in prison since neither of his family members nor his lawyers and party men have been allowed to see him for a month. He has been languishing in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail for over two years.

Khan's three sisters, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activists and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi have been camping outside the Adiala Jail for the last few days pressurising the Shehbaz Sharif government to allow his family members to meet him.

"My father has been under arrest for 845 days. For the past six weeks, he has been kept in solitary confinement in a death cell with zero transparency. His sisters have been denied every visit, even with clear court orders allowing access. There have been no phone calls, no meetings and no proof of life. Me and my brother have had no contact with our father," Kasim said.

Lambasting the government, Kasim further said that "this absolute blackout is not a security protocol". "Rather it is a deliberate attempt to hide my father's condition and prevent our family from knowing whether he is safe. Let it be clear -- the Pakistani government and its handlers will be held fully accountable legally, morally and internationally for my father's safety," he said.

Supporters of jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan protest in Karachi on Saturday. REUTERS

Russia set to ratify key military pact with India

MOSCOW, PTI: The Russian lower house of Parliament is set to ratify a crucial military pact with India ahead of President Vladimir Putin's state visit on December 4-5 for the 23rd bilateral summit, according to reports.

Signed on February 18, 2025 in Moscow by the Indian Ambassador Vinay Kumar and erstwhile Deputy Defence Minister Alexander Fomin the Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement is to enhance military cooperation between the two strategic partners.

The State Duma has uploaded the RELOS in its ratification database along with the Russian government's note and said that "the Russian government believes that the ratification of the document will strengthen cooperation between Russia and India in the military sphere", official news agency TASS reported. The RELOS agreement aims to streamline coordination for joint military exercises, disaster relief and other operations.

RELOS will enhance military cooperation by simplifying procedures for joint activities, including exercises and disaster relief.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Jodie Haydon in Canberra on Saturday. REUTERS

Albanese first Oz PM to wed in office

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese married his partner Jodie Haydon in a secretive and intimate ceremony on Saturday at his official residence in Canberra, AP/PTI reports from Melbourne.

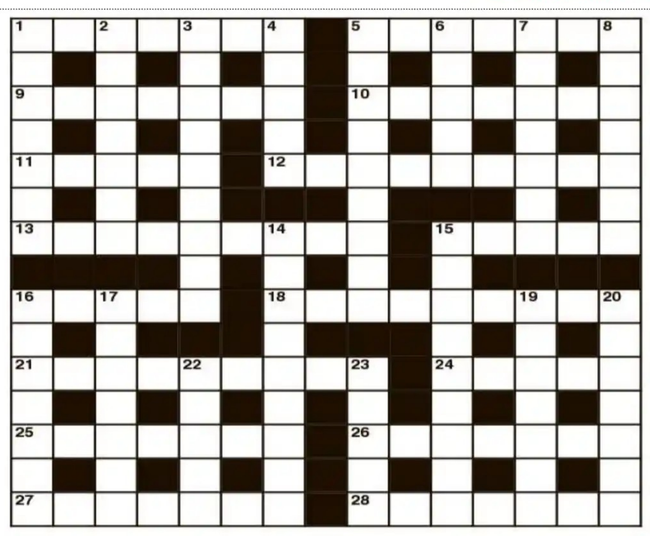
Albanese is the first prime minister to marry while in office in the 124-year history of the Australian federal government. The couple were married by a civil celebrant before around 60 guests, including Oscar-winning actor Russell Crowe and several cabinet ministers, in an afternoon ceremony on the grounds of The Lodge. There was no media reporting of the event until after it had occurred. "We are absolutely delighted to share our love and commitment to spending our future lives together, in front of our family and closest friends," the couple said in a statement.

India re-elected to maritime council

India has been re-elected to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council with the highest vote in its category at elections held at its Assembly in London for the 2025-26 biennium, PTI reports from London.

India's election in Category B on Friday falls under the collection of 10 states with "the largest interest in international seaborne trade," alongside Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The newly elected Council will meet for its 136th session on December 4 and will elect its Chair and Vice-Chair for the next biennium, the IMO said.

◆ SUNDAY CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 2656 ◆



ACROSS
1 Self-exaltation (7)
5 Undergraduate (7)
9 Temporary (7)
10 Old hand (7)
11 Protection (5)
12 Famous painter of Venice and London (9)
13 Impediment (9)
15 To concentrate (5)
16 In agreement (2,3)
18 Sharp pithy remark (9)
21 Manage to communicate (3,6)
24 One guilty of a major crime (5)
25 Originate (7)
26 Expose (7)
27 News (7)
28 Self-confident (7)

DOWN
1 Tomb inscription (7)
2 Eight-sided figure (7)
3 Unused and available in need (2,7)
4 Imitate in ridicule (5)
5 The world's oceans (5,4)
6 Up to the time when (5)
7 Inconsistent (7)
8 Insubstantial (7)
14 People recently arrived (9)
15 Recognise the truth (4,5)
16 Reinforce (7)
17 Apparent (7)
19 Completely finished (3,4)
20 Similar in character (7)
22 Sequence (5)
23 American composer of marches (5)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 4016

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 9, Our F-ather 10, Con-tender 12, (Me)T-ask 13, Moti(me)-ve 14, Has-his-h 15, Fried r-I-ce 17, Malingers 18, Le-gate-e 19, Endi-V-e 20, S-par 23, Drop scone 25, C-el-estial 26, Land 27, Strain 29, G-er-man's 32, B(lock)-rainless 34, N-ever f-ear 35, Retouch 36, Mat-ure 37, Se(V)en 38, Tar-Paul-in 39, Cheap-ened.
DOWN: 1, Mouthful 2, Dressing down 3, The-O-rise 4, Ar-R-IV-e (rev) 5, Screa-me-d 6, On the level 7, L-eas-ing 8, Orchestral 11, Drive 16, DE-test 19, Eye (aye) 21, Private means 22, Usurer 23, Deliberate 24, On the whole 25, Con(done) 28, As-sum-ing 29, Go-verne-d 30, Seren-AD-e 31, Inhum-a-n 33, Af-t-er 34, Not-ice.

EASY
ACROSS: 9, Prostrate 10, Perforate 12, Rota 13, Picnic 14, Tankard 15, Dinosaurs 17, Memoranda 18, Command 19, Minute 20, Writ 23, Plutonium 25, Racing car 26, Echo 27, Bridge 29, Stirrup 32, Universal 34, Pineapple 35, Install 36, Crafty 37, Data 38, Energetic 39, Interfere.
DOWN: 1, Sporadic 2, Foot-and-mouth 3, Fatigued 4, Tennis 5, Specimen 6, Arithmetic 7, Country 8, Headmaster 11, Again 16, Slalom 19, Mum 21, Record player 22, Angina 23, Prejudiced 24, Irresolute 25, Rue 28, Delicacy 29, Sanctity 30, Prepared 31, Derange 33, Issue 34, Placid.

SU DO KU X - 3751

2	7					4		6
					7			
		8						
6	5		7	3				1
4						8		
	9							
	1					3		
		9						
					9		5	

SOLUTION TO 3750

2	8	7	5	4	3	9	1	6
6	3	5	2	1	9	7	4	8
9	1	4	7	6	8	3	2	5
4	6	1	8	3	2	5	9	7
3	7	2	9	5	4	6	8	1
8	5	9	1	7	6	2	3	4
5	4	8	3	9	7	1	6	2
1	9	6	4	2	5	8	7	3
7	2	3	6	8	1	4	5	9

To solve the puzzle:
The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

WEIGHT & WATCH Can Tokyo silver medallist make the tricky jump for 2028 Los Angeles Olympics?

WEIGHT SHIFT gamble for Mirabai

The removal of 48 kg category, in which Mirabai Chanu has historically done well, has forced her shift to 53 kg which has its own pros and cons. PTI

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Many in India were left a bit rattled when the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) quietly revealed the weight categories for the 2028 LA Olympics. The biggest jolt was seeing the 48kg class missing from the list; the same category where Mirabai Chanu has built her legacy and medal hopes.

With the Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games both falling next year, fans instantly wondered if this one change could derail India's best bet in women's weightlifting.

For someone who has already adapted more than most lifters in her career, this shift felt like yet another test. The 2020 Tokyo silver medallist, and still the lone flagbearer for India at the elite level, has now been pushed to the 53kg category. And this wasn't the first time in a short span, having already moved from 49kg to 48 earlier after IWF updated the chart back for June 2025.

Interestingly, the one man who should've been as stressed about it as Mirabai, if not more, seemed the least bothered. In fact he sounded almost cheerful. Vijay Sharma, the head coach of IWLF, believes this entire situation might actually work in Mirabai's favour.

"The move to 53kg is the best thing possible," Sharma told DHoS. "It's easier for Mira to gain weight now. It would have been a serious headache if we had to lose another kg instead. But before we start thinking about the move to 53kg, we have important events to compete in next year."

That confidence sort of rubs off when the head coach calls something a blessing in disguise, you pause and think maybe he's seeing a bigger picture.

Sharma has already chalked out Mirabai's full plan for the 2026 season. She will continue to remain in the 48kg division through the CWG, Asiad and the World Championships. The idea is simple: Squeeze the most out of the lighter category, finish the season strong and only then begin the serious climb towards 53kg in a phased approach.

The reigning CWG champions' qualification for Glasgow Games, happening from July 23 to August 2, was classic. She broke all three records in snatch, clean & jerk and total at the Commonwealth Championships in Ahmedabad earlier this year. At 31, Mirabai keeps showing up with numbers that force everyone to keep rewriting stats. And honestly this part of the journey looks smooth enough unless for any unforeseen circumstances.

The tougher assignment comes in September at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games, where it gets tricky. India haven't had a weightlifting medal at the Asian Games since 1998 when Karnam Malleswari took home a silver in the 63kg category. The 28-year long wait is down to the dominance of giants like China, Iran and North Korea. Still, if all goes as planned, Mirabai might just have one of her best shots at breaking the drought.

An important rule change helps her as the Asian Weightlifting Federation has decided to allow only one athlete per country per category. That means the teams can't flood events with multiple contenders. Adding to that, the Games will award medals separately for snatch and clean & jerk, not just the combined total.

"We want to compete for both the medals at the Asian Games. That's why we decided to keep her in the 48kg category for another season before moving up to 53kg," Sharma said.

While one could only pray that Mirabai remains trouble free in this injury-ridden sport, the Manipur-born lifter also has a crucial off-season post-Asiad. Sharma acknowledges the same.

"There may not be much time for a break at the end of the next season as we have to work on building her healthy mass and improve strength," said the Dronacharya awardee.

Sharma's support staff, stationed at IWLF's core camp in Modinagar, will be playing a big role during this period as a personnel of nutritionist, strength and conditioning coach and physio will have to ensure a smooth transition to the 53kg.

Experts estimate that putting on the additional kilos of lean muscle mass can take anywhere from six to nine months. For someone like Mirabai who has years of elite training behind her, the lower end of the time frame might be enough even if it's going to be tough.

"With this increase to 53, she would gradually put on that weight because with age it's easier to put on fat than muscle," said Mihira Khopkar, Reliance's lead sports nutritionist, who has worked with elite Indian lifters earlier. "Her strength-training programme becomes crucial in this aspect and good thing is Vijay has an excellent programme to build that strength. At the same time, her nutrition programme will be crucial to ensure whatever weight she gain is not fat."

This part is honestly where the whole blessing-or-problem question becomes real. She has to bulk up but not lose her explosiveness; build strength but not compromise her speed. And she must do it while preparing to face women who grew up competing in the 53kg, some of whom dominate the world stage.

To draw a comparison, her personal best of 205kg, set in 2021 (88 snatch + 119 clean & jerk), is behind the beasts of the 53kg division. North Korea's Kang Hyon Gong leads with a 214 (93 + 121) followed by Romania's Mihaela Cambei (208), who also switched from 49. That's an imposing gap, which leaves the reasonable question if she can match up to her new rivals by the time of LA Olympics at 34?

Aradhna Sharma, chief nutritionist of the Indian contingent for Paris Olympics, believes there's still enough runway for her to make the leap.

"Two years time is good enough to strategise her weight gain and changes in technique. Logically, the gained lean muscle mass will help her lift more weight than she does now because more muscle will generate more force. For the rest, Mirabai's skills and coaching will come into play," she said.

So is this weight shift a blessing in disguise or a medal slipping away? Frankly, it sits somewhere in the middle. The challenge is massive but not impossible.

Heart claims Calcutta 1000 Guineas

KOLKATA RESULTS

Deepesh Narredu-trained Heart, ridden by Trevor Patel, won the Calcutta 1000 Guineas, the feature event of the Calcutta races on Saturday.

1. Cameron Handicap - 1100M: Lineupandcollect (Faiz Adam) Vishal Bunde 1; Memphis (Vaibhav) 2; Happy Morning (J Chinoy) 3; Horus The Great (Gaurav Singh) 4; Wb: Hd, 3/4, 1-3/4L. T: 1-07.32. TB: Faiz Sabeel Shariff. Fav: Memphis.

2. Alice Springs Handicap (Div-I) -1600M: Whirlwind (Vikram Bachahawat) Suraj Narredu 1; Paulite Warrior (Hindu Singh) 2; Fortune Warrior (Gaurav Singh) 3; Dancing Queen (Tejewshwar) 4; Wb: 1-1/4, Shd, 3L. T: 1-38.75. TB: Vijay Singh. Fav: Whirlwind.

3. Alice Springs Handicap (Div-II) - 1600M: Dusenberg (K N Dhunjibhoy) A Prakash 1; Ksepiman (Mukesh Kumar) 2; Zambezi (M S Deora) 3; Seina (Vishal Bunde) 4; Wb: 3-1/2, 2, 2-3/4L. 1-38.14. TB: Pesi Shroff. Fav: Dusenberg.

4. Romantic Liason Handicap - 1600M: Aabushan (Joydeep Gupta) Hindu Singh 1; Zarak (Neeraj Rawal) 2; Main Street (Trevor Patel) 3; Natural Grace (Vishal Bunde) 4; Wb: 6-1/2, 1-1/2, 3-3/4L. T: 1-38.88. TB: Patric Quinn. Fav: Zarak.

5. Calcutta 1000 Guineas - 1600M: Heart (Ram Shroff) Trevor Patel 1; Eleanora (Suraj Narredu) 2; Conjurer (Mukesh Kumar) 3; Morano (Neeraj Rawal) 4; Wb: 1/2, Snk, 2-1/4L. T: 1-37.65. TB: Deepesh Narredu. Fav: Heart.

6. Safari Handicap - 1100M: Salome (Joydeep Datta Gupta) Mukesh Kumar 1; Enola Holmes (J H Arul) 2; Light The World (Neeraj Rawal) 3; Bundle Of Charm (Vishal Bunde) 4; Not Run: Seasmoke. Wb: 2, 1/2, 3/4. T: 1-05.58. TB: Bharath Singh. Fav: Enola Holmes.

Bengaluru dividends:
I race: Rs 29w; 13, 15, 11p; Fc: Rs 210; Q: Rs 184; Shp: Rs 36; Thp: Rs 42; Tri: Rs 300 & 143; Ex: Rs 691 & 409.
II race: Rs 16w; 11, 15, 11p; Fc: Rs 54; Q: Rs 28; Shp: Rs 30; Thp: Rs 26; Tri: Rs 130 & 74; Ex: Rs 824 & 426.
III race: Rs 15w; 10, 13, 46p; Fc: Rs 29; Q: Rs 21; Shp: Rs 19; Thp: Rs 81; Tri: Rs 579 & 627; Ex: Rs 2,231 & 623.
IV race: Rs 95w; 30, 13p; Fc: Rs 239; Q: Rs 61; Shp: Rs 19; Thp: Rs 26; Tri: Rs 384 & 176; Ex: Rs : 1,177 & 267.
V race: Rs 15w; 10, 13, 15p; Fc: Rs 39; Q: Rs 20; Shp: Rs 37; Thp: Rs 39; Tri: Rs 102 & 81; Ex: Rs 207 & 106.
VI race: Rs 127w; 22, 12, 18p; Fc: Rs 847; Q: Rs 225; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 56; Tri: Rs 1,969 & 844; Ex: Rs 15,150 & 6,493.
Jackpot: Rs 18,241 (11). **Runner-up**: Rs 178 (482). **I treble**: Rs 222 (101). **II treble**: Rs 12,125 (2).

HOCKEY JUNIOR WORLD CUP

India maul Oman 17-0

Hosts deliver event's biggest win yet to hold on to top spot in Pool B

MOHAMED FARZAN
CHENNAI

India extended their winning run in the FIH Men's Junior World Cup with a resounding 17-0 win over Oman here at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium on Saturday.

Dilraj Singh's double brace, Arsdeep Singh's and Manmeet Singh's hat-trick set up a comfortable victory for the world No. 2 India.

Arshdeep Singh opened India's account in the first quarter with a fabulous shot, finding a small opening between the goalkeeper and the edge of the goal post. Despite an early lead, the hosts took their time to adapt to the adverse weather conditions. India earned four penalty corners in the first quarter, but failed to convert any of them.

After missing three PCs, the floodgates opened in the second quarter with Manmeet Singh adding his name to the score sheet in the 17th minute. However, India's poor penalty corner conversions continued with two more missed chances. Manmeet brushed past the defenders to find the back of the net once again in the 26th minute. In the 29th minute, Anmol Ekka ended India's wait for a PC goal after ten missed chances. Soon after, Dilraj Singh scored a goal in under 10 milliseconds to extend India's half-time lead to 5-0.

Gurjot Singh (right) scored a brace in India's 17-0 thumping of Oman in their second pool match of the FIH Men's Junior World Cup on Saturday. HI MEDIA

Coming back after the break, India unleashed their best performance with seven goals in the third quarter. Dilraj Singh converted a PC to score his second goal of the night. Arshdeep Singh and Ajeet Yadav scored a goal each in under 20 seconds to extend India's lead to eight goals.

Two minutes later, Manmeet Singh scored another goal, completing his hat-trick. Gurjot Singh found the back of the net for India off a penalty corner, improving their conversion rate.

Arshdeep Singh scored his third goal of the night in the 40th minute, while Thounaojam Ingalemba Luwang from Manipur found the back of the net from the edge of the circle to open his account.

Oman earned a couple of penalty corners in the dying minutes of the third quarter but couldn't make it count.

India retained the top spot in the Pool B standings, with Switzerland placed second, courtesy of India's better goal difference of 24. They will play their last group stage encounter against Switzerland at the Madurai International Hockey Stadium on Tuesday, December. The two sides will lock horns with a spot in the quarterfinals at stake.

Results: In Chennai: Pool B: India: 17 (Arshdeep Singh 4th, 33rd, 40th, Manmeet Singh 17th, 26th & 36th, Anmol Ekka 29th, Dilraj Singh 29th, 32nd, 50th & 58th, Ajeet Yadav 34th, 37th, Gurjot Singh 39th, 45th, Thounaojam Ingalemba Luwang 43rd, Sharda Nand Tiwari 55th) bt Oman: 0

Switzerland: 3 (Jonathan Baumbach 7th, Jens Fluck 18th, Mattia Ribaudo 45th) bt Chile: 2 (Tomas Hasson 37th, Felipe Duisberg 57th).

Pool F: France: 11 (Gabin Lorrazuri 2nd & 49th, Hugo Dolou 8th, Arthur Plauche 23rd, 26th & 42nd, Achille Loussif 37th, Tassilo Sura 43rd, Victor Saint-Martin 45th & 55th, Arthur Morcrette 59th) bt Korea: 1 (Gyeonghu Lee 40th).

Australia: 5 (Oliver Will 1st, Ian Grobbelaar 18th, Dylan Brick 22nd, Duncan Jackson 24th, Daykin Stanger 48th) bt Bangladesh: 3 (Amirul Islam 14th, 42nd, 59th).

In Madurai: Pool A: South Africa: 2 (Reuben Sendzul 43rd, Ross Montgomery 54th) bt Ireland: 1 (Matthew McKee 45th).

Germany: 7 (Quirin Nahr 14th, Ben Hasbach 24th, 51st & 52nd, Jonas von Gersum 39th, Ferdinand Steinebach 39th, Alec von Schwerin 42nd) bt Canada: 0.

Pool E: Netherlands: 5 (Jan van 't Land 2nd & 49th, Casper van der Veen 26th, Joppe Wolbert 39th, Danilo Trieling 54th) bt England: 3 (Kaden Draysey 11th, Micheael Royden 29th, George Fletcher 49th).

Malaysia: 5 (Harris Osman 28th, Adam Johari 47th, Naaveenesh Panicker 55th, Danish Khairil 56th & 57th) bt Austria: 1 (Julian Kaiser 56th).

Young Orion's SC, SWR reign supreme

The champion outfits pocket Rs 50,000 each

BENGALURU, DHNS

South Western Railway and Young Orion's Sports Club clinched the women's and men's titles respectively at the State Association Cup Basketball Championship at the Sri Kanteerava Indoor Stadium on Saturday.

South Western Railway edged Beagles BC 76-74 with Bhandvya scoring 16 points and Shruthi adding 15. Sanjana Ramesh's 36-point effort for Beagles went in vain.

Young Orion's SC secured the men's crown after defeating DYES Bangalore 68-43, powered by Shashank Rai's 22 and Suraj's 12.

Bank of Baroda finished second in the men's section, followed by DYES Bangalore and Southern Blues.

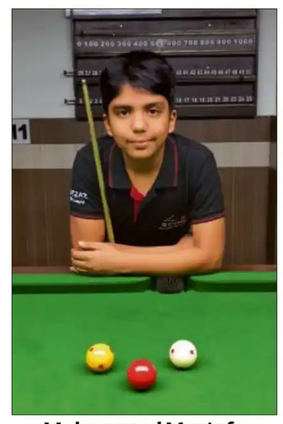
In the women's section, Beagles BC took second place with Mounts Club and Rajamahal BC completing the top four.

Both champions received Rs 50,000 each, while the runners-up and third-placed teams earned Rs 25,000 and Rs 15,000 respectively along with trophies.

Results: Final league matches: Men: Young Orion's SC: 68 (Shashank Rai 22, Suraj 12) bt DYES Bangalore: 43 (Adarsh 17, Likith Bopanna 13). HT: 45-24.

Women: South Western Railway: 76 (Bhandvya 16, Shruthi 15) bt Beagles BC: 74 (Sanjana Ramesh 36, Tavleen 14). HT: 32-44.

South Western Railways team, winners of the women's title of the State Association Cup Basketball Championship for men & women at the Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday. Standing (from left): Sathya, Anusha, Surya (captain), Ruth, Sobana and Bala. Kneeling: Bhandavya and Shruthi. DH PHOTO/ BK JANARDHAN



Mohammed Mustafa

Unbeaten Mustafa tops the table

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mohammed Mustafa notched up a solid performance to finish on top of the semifinal league in the State-ranking Junior men's snooker tournament here on Saturday.

Mustafa scored comfortable wins in all three games, beating Mayank Karthik (3-1), Aarush Chowhan (3-1) and Nitin S Gowda (3-0).

Mayank, after a loss to Mustafa, finished second with wins over Nitin (3-0) and Aarush (3-1).

Results: Semifinal League: Mohammed Mustafa bt Mayank Karthik 3-1 (03-61, 71-31, 67-28, 62-31); Nitin S Gowda bt Aarush Chowhan 3–2 (55-26, 16-67, 52-40, 05-55, 65-16); Mohammed Mustafa bt Aarush Chowhan 3–0 (73 (68)-01, 57-08, 73-27); Mayank Karthik bt Nitin S Gowda 3–0 (64-23, 52-22, 64-19); Mayank Karthik bt Aarush Chowhan 3–1 (66-24, 76-12, 58-66, 68-23); Mohammed Mustafa bt Nitin S Gowda 3–0 (68-38, 75-41, 52-13).

KSLTA rewards Poonacha

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA) on Saturday announced a cash reward of Rs 1 lakh to Niki Poonacha for reaching the men's doubles main draw of the 2026 Australian Open.

Niki and his Thai partner Pruchya Isaro won the Asia-Pacific Wildcard Playoff held in Chengdu, China on Friday.

They defeated Japan's Seita Kusuhara and Katsuki Nakagawa in the final 6–4, 6–3 to claim the Australian Open wildcardfor men's doubles.

Inspire clinches Kempegowda Cup

BENGALURU RESULTS

Inspire, from the stables of Arjun Mangalorkar and ridden by Antony Raj, won the Kempegowda Cup, the feature event of the winter races on Saturday.

1. November Plate - 1200M: Rocking Star (V Shankar) Alex Rozario 1; Politesse (N Darshan) 2; Celestria (Akshay Kumar) 3; Jade Mountain (Vinod Shindej) 4; WB: 1-1/2L, Snk, Shd. T: 1-13.57. Tote: Rs 22w; Rs 16, 13, 24p; Fc: Rs 134; Q: Rs 87; Shp: Rs 41: Thp: Rs 79: Tri: Rs 1,369 & 880. Exacta: Rs 2,244 & 565. TB: Pradeep Annaiah. Fav: Rocking Star.

2. Muthyalamaduvu Plate - 1600M: Hyperdrive (Shailesh Shivaswamy) Pavan 1; Stella Maris (Arvind Kumar) 2; Acantha (R N Darshan) 2, Mandate (Antony Raj). WB: 2-3/4, 2-1/4, 1-3/4L. T: 1-38.16. Tote: Rs 39w; Rs 13, 13, 15p; Fc: Rs 569; Q: Rs 196; Shp: Rs 31; Thp: Rs 43: Tri: Rs 1,259 & 655; Exacta: Rs 2,944 & 1,262. TB: Irfan Ghatala. Fav: Agrador.

3. V Venugopal Naidu Memorial Trophy - 1100M: Goddess Of War (Rajendra) Antony Raj 1; Thessalian (Vinod Shinde) 2; Mutual Trust (Sai Kiran) 3; Gloriousness (R N Darshan) 4; WB: 1-1/2, Shd, 1L. 1-06.48. Tote: Rs 96w; Rs 24, 18, 14p; Fc: Rs 1,301; Q: Rs 903; Shp: 59; Thp: Rs 32; Tri: Rs 3,951 & 1,693; Ex: Rs 54,627. . TB: Arjun Mangalorkar. Fav: Goddes Of War.

4. Kempegowda Cup - 1500M: Inspire (Arun Alagappan) Antony Raj 1; Efficacy (Shreyas Singh) 2; Lux Aeterna (R N Darshan) 3; Victorial Doresaani (Alex Rozario) 4. WB: Lnk, 5-1/4, 2L. T: 1-30.17. Tote: Rs 16w; Rs 12, 14, 13p; Fc: Rs 35; Q: Rs 28; Shp: Rs 30; Thp: Rs 37; Tri: Rs 48 & 41; Ex: Rs 137 & 80.
TB: Arjun Mangalorkar. Fav: Inspire.

5. Chitamani Plate - 1300M: Double Vision (A Muniraja) Arshad Alam 1; Dufy (Sachin) 2; Dynamic Force (Vinod Shinde) 3; D Fronx (Asirwatham) 4.. WB: Shd, 3/4, 1-3/4L. T: 1-19.39. Rs 228w; Rs 39, 72, 21p; Fc 8,307; Q: 4,737; Shp: Rs 207; Thp: Rs 46; Tri: Rs 34,001 & 14,572; Ex: Rs 52,943 (c/o).. TB: Shoban Babu. Fav: Invincible.

6. Nagarjuna Sagar Plate -1400M: Thrill Of Brazil (A K Jaiswal) Jagadeesh 1; Feeling Good (Vinod Shinde) 2; Elveden (Aleemuddin) 3; Mega Success (Shreyas Singh) 4; WB: 5-3/4, 2, 1-3/4L.. T: 1.26.30. Tote: Rs 23w; Rs 11, 19, 22p; Fc: Rs 174; Q: Rs 180; Shp: Rs 66; Thp: Rs 52; Tri: Rs 1,151 & 557; Ex: Rs 27,026 & 15,443. TB: Sajjid Qureshi. Fav: Thrill Of Brazil.

Jackpot: Rs 2,97,117 (c/o). **Runner-up**: Rs 63,668 (2). **I treble**: Rs 6,843 (4). **II treble**: Rs 4,223 (20).

India drub Canada to enter final

IPOH (MALAYSIA), PTI

Jugraj Singh scored four goals as the Indian men's hockey team thrashed Canada 14-3 in a high-scoring encounter to top the pool standings and make the final of the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup here on Saturday.

Having lost only to Belgium by a goal earlier in the tournament, India were upbeat after a sensational 3-2 win against New Zealand in their previous game.

India will play Belgium in the summit clash on Sunday.

Jugraj Singh (right). HI MEDIA

The match began with an early goal by Nilakanta Sharma in the fourth minute, followed by a 10th minute goal by Rajinder Singh.

It was a thrilling start to the game with Canada responding to the early goals by creating PCs and even converting from them. In the 11th minute, Brendan Guraliuk converted a fine PC.

Two more goals were scored in the following minutes through Jugraj Singh and Amit Rohidas.

Result: India: 14 (Nilakanta Sharma 4th, Rajinder Singh 10th, 24th, Amit Rohidas 15th, 46th, Dilpreet Singh 25th, Jugraj Singh 12th, 26th, 39th, 50th, Karthi S 43th, Sanjay C 56th, Abhishek 57th, 59th) bt Canada: 3 (Brendan Guraliuk 11th, Matthew Sarmento 35th, Jyothswaroop Sidhu 55th).

Bashir for feature event

MUMBAI SELECTIONS

Bashir, from the stables of Karthik Ganapathy and to be ridden by Antony Raj, is fancied to win the Director General Of Police Trophy, the feature event of the Mumbai races to be run over a distance of seven furlongs on Sunday. First race starts at 2.00 pm.

1. A Campbell Trophy - 1200M: Densetsu 1, Scaramouche 2, Lord Eric 3.
2. D J Surti Salver - 1000M: Surrealist 1, Rafael 2, El Moran 3.
3. R R Byramji Salver - 1600M: Baychimo 1, Dedication 2, Tyrannus 3.
4. Gentleman's Trophy - 1400M: Diego Garcia 1, Between Lands 2, Exciting 3.
5. Director General Of Police Trophy - 1400M: Bashir 1, Fourth Wing 2, Stormy Sea 3.
6. Captain G Hall Trophy - 1200M: Lucio 1, Charlie Brown 2, Enforcer 3.
7. V R Menon Plate - 1600M: Speak The Breed 1, Marlboro Man 2, Daianne 3.
Day's best: Diego Garcia. **Jackpot**: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. **Treble**: 4, 5 & 6.

Oscar Piastri

Piastri keeps title hopes alive with sprint win

DOHA, AFP: Oscar Piastri boosted his bid for a maiden drivers' world championship on Saturday when he reduced McLaren teammate Lando Norris's lead to 22 points by winning the sprint race at the Qatar Grand Prix.

Driving with assurance after a fine start from pole position, the 24-year-old Australian delivered a cool drive reminiscent of his early-season domination to finish 4.951 seconds clear of Mercedes' George Russell with Norris 1.3 seconds adrift in third.

Four-time champion Max Verstappen came home fourth for Red Bull ahead of team-mate Yuki Tsunoda and teenage rookie Kimi Antonelli in the second Mercedes.

The latter two were both handed five-second penalties for exceeding track limits.

It was Piastri's first success since he won the Dutch Grand Prix on August 31.

IN BRIEF

K'taka women beat Tripura

▸ After restricting Tripura for 83/7 in 20 overs, Karnataka openers Niki Prasad (46 n.o.) and Rachitha Hatwar (37 n.o.) completed the chase in a mere 9.2 overs to steer their team to a 10-wicket win in the BCCI Under-23 Women's T20 Trophy in Sultanpur on Saturday, reports DHNS.

Brief scores: Tripura: 83/7 in 20 overs (BG Tejashwini 2-19) lt to Karnataka: 84/0 in 9.2 overs (Niki Prasad 46 n.o., Rachitha Hatwar 37 n.o.).

BDFA A Division from Dec 1

▸ The Bangalore District Football Association (BDFA) will conduct the A Division League Championships from December 1 at the Bangalore Football Stadium, reports DHNS.

Among the 15 teams participating, last year B Division winners Technico FF and runners-up Stride FC -- promoted to A division for finishing top two -- are also in fray.

Praneel wins twin titles

▸ Praneel Sharma completed a memorable double at the ITF World Junior Tennis Tour J100 tournament, clinching both the singles and doubles titles as Roundglass Tennis Academy swept the honours at the DLTA Tennis Stadium on Saturday, reports PTI from New Delhi.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

1st ODI: India vs South Africa **(1:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

SMAT: Karnataka vs Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh vs Kerala, Goa vs Hyderabad **(all 11 am)**, Delhi vs Saurashtra, Bihar vs J&K, Andhra Pradesh vs Mumbai **(4:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

EPL: Crystal Palace vs Man United **(5:30 pm)**, Aston Villa vs Wolverhampton Wanderers, Nottingham Forest vs Brighton, West Ham vs Liverpool **(all 7:35 pm)**, Chelsea vs Arsenal **(10 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

La Liga: Real Sociedad vs Villareal **(6:30 pm)**, Sevilla FC vs Real Betis **(8:45 pm)**, Celta Vigo vs Espanyol **(11 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

HOCKEY

Men's Jr World Cup: Egypt vs Namibia **(9 am)**, Belgium vs Spain **(11:15 am)**, England vs Austria **(1:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network and JioHotstar.**

MOTORSPORT

Formula 1: Qatar GP **(main race 9:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **F1TV Pro, FanCode.**

CRICKET INDIA-SOUTH AFRICA ODI SERIES

Another Rohit, Kohli audition

All eyes on under-fire coach Gambhir after Test debacle

RANCHI, PTI

India will look to address several lingering selection puzzles when they take on South Africa on Sunday in the first ODI of the three-match series where Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli return to the set-up for a short audition that could well shape their 2027 World Cup fate.

Both Rohit and Kohli now compete in just one international format, and with India scheduled to play only six ODIs in the next two months -- three against the Proteas and three versus New Zealand at home in January -- the stakes have rarely been higher for two of Indian cricket's modern-day greats.

The performance in these games could have a direct bearing on their prospects for the 2027 ODI World Cup. It may not seal their 2027 World Cup destinies, but it begins a high-stakes audition -- one that could either extend two legendary careers or nudge them closer to an inevitable sunset.

Incidentally, it was at this very JSCA Stadium back in 2013 that Rohit Sharma was first backed as a full-time opener -- a defining moment that transformed not only his white-ball career but also India's 50-over outlook for years.

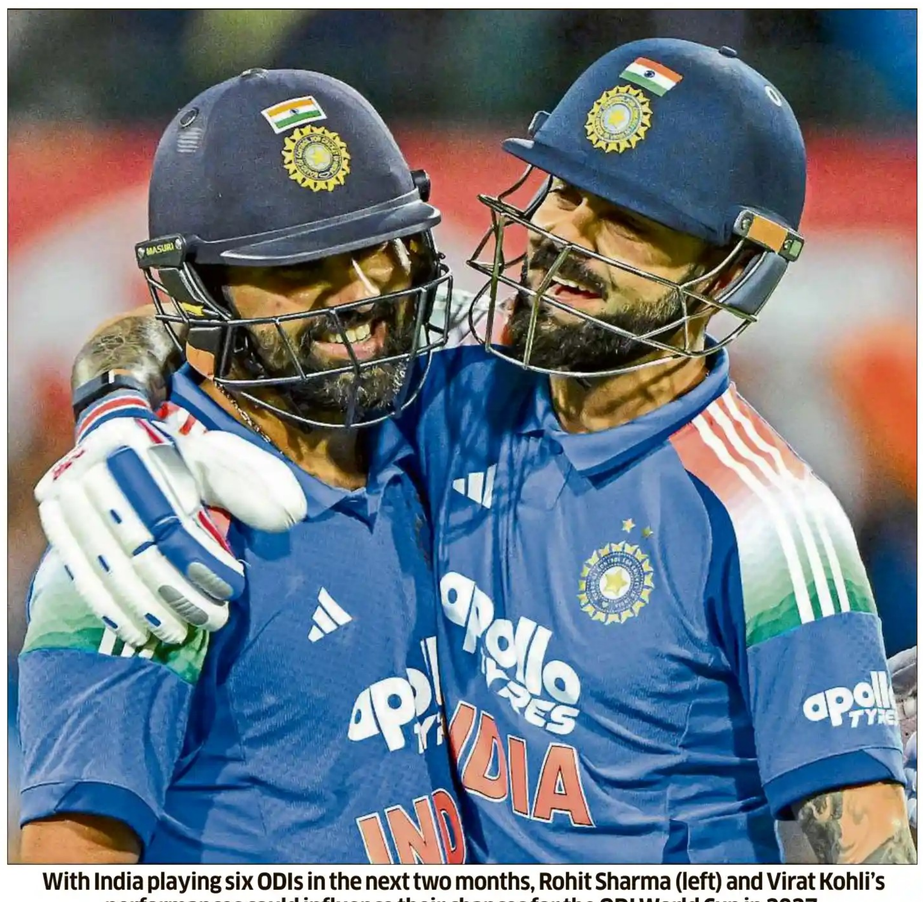
More than a decade later, the 37-year-old walks into Ranchi again, this time seeking a different kind of revival as India attempt to rebuild after losing the home Test series.

For India, the ODI series comes in the shadow of the T20 World Cup at home next year, a tournament that will invariably dictate selection priorities.

Head coach Gautam Gambhir, too, enters this series under scrutiny though his job is not under threat since his contract runs till 2027 World Cup.

His tactical calls and team selections were questioned after the Test setback -- his second major failure since taking charge. This ODI series is an important opportunity for Gambhir to stabilise the narrative and showcase clarity in India's white-ball direction.

While the ODIs may not be his immediate priority with the T20 World Cup at home looming next year, Gambhir will nevertheless be keen to restore stability and demonstrate direction in India's white-ball approach. The management would be keen to use the South Africa games to broaden the player pool, test evolving roles and identify cross-format performers who can offer stability in both white-ball squads.



With India playing six ODIs in the next two months, Rohit Sharma (left) and Virat Kohli's performances could influence their chances for the ODI World Cup in 2027.

LIVE 1:30 PM, STAR SPORTS NETWORK

Unsettled batting

In this series too, India's XI remain far from settled with several senior players missing.

Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj have been rested, while regular captain Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer are nursing injuries.

Their absence not only weakens the line-up but also forces stand-in skipper KL Rahul and head coach Gambhir to juggle roles and responsibilities.

The middle-order puzzle is even more delicate.

The management needs to decide whether to back Washington Sundar as the spin-bowling all-rounder or the hard-hitting Nitish Kumar Reddy. More composed Tilak Varma could also be trusted with extended runs.

It also remains to be seen if the playing XI can have Rishabh Pant if skipper KL Rahul keeps the wickets.

The coaching staff are keen to use these fixtures to evaluate fringe players, develop cross-format depth and maintain rhythm for senior pros without overloading them.

India's approach needs to be pragmatic: allow the seniors to regain rhythm, give emerging batters extended runs, and use the bowling unit -- built around Prasidh Krishna, Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana and Kuldeep Yadav -- to assess death-overs combinations in Bumrah's absence.

Confident Proteas

South Africa will walk into the series with confidence after their Test series triumph, keen to extend the momentum in a format where their transition group has often blown hot and cold.

The visitors, despite missing pace spearheads Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje, remain buoyant that the confidence gained in red-ball cricket can translate into white-ball sharpness in conditions that will again test their adaptability.

For captain Temba Bavuma, the ODI leg offers a chance to reinforce South Africa's progress in 50-over cricket.

Squads: India: KL Rahul (c), Rohit Sharma, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Tilak Varma, Rishabh Pant, Washington Sundar, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Harshit Rana, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Prasidh Krishna, Arshdeep Singh, Dhruv Jurel.
South Africa: Temba Bavuma (c), Aiden Markram, Dewald Brevis, Nandre Burger, Quinton de Kock, Marco Jansen, Tony de Zorzi, Rubin Hermann, Ottneil Baartman, Corbin Bosch, Matthew Breetzke, Keshav Maharaj, Lungi Ngidi, Ryan Rickelton, Prenelan Subrayen.

'No definitive answers to spin'

Opener for exploring technical, tactical adjustments

RANCHI, PTI

Stand-in ODI skipper KL Rahul **(in pic)** on Saturday conceded that Indian batters' repeated struggles against spin, especially on home tracks, remain a concern but he didn't have a "definitive answer" to the decline of their traditional strength. His comment comes amid a worrying pattern of Indian batting line-up's repeated buckling against spinners on home tracks in Test cricket over the last two seasons -- once their fortress.

New Zealand in 2024 and then South Africa recently whitewashed India 3-0 and 2-0 respectively, on the back of relentless spin bowling led by left-arm spinners Mitchell Santner, Ajaz Patel (NZ) and off-spinner Simon Harmer (SA) on pitches that had dollops of turn.

"We haven't played spin well enough in the last couple of seasons. I really don't know why we did it earlier and why we aren't doing it now. I don't have a definitive answer. All we can do is to look at how to get better individually and as a batting group," Rahul told media on the eve of 1st ODI.

Rahul said the batters will have to explore technical and tactical adjustments and it will be a long haul.

"It won't change overnight. We'll look at what improvements we need and hopefully by the time the Sri Lanka and Australia series come around, we'll be better prepared. "We'll also reach out to seniors who played spin exceptionally well," he added.

Echoing the concern, former India spinner R Ashwin recently said that India's "pathetic" batting against spin.

INDIA vs SOUTH AFRICA IN ODIS

	Mats	Ind	SA	No Res
Overall	94	40	51	3
In India	32	18	14	0

Ind v SA last 11 ODIs in India: 5 wins India, 6 wins SA

India's home bilateral ODI series since Dec 2019
10 Played: 9 Won, 1 Lost

South Africa in Asia since 2024
14 Played: 6 Won, 8 Lost

CAPTAINCY RECORD
KL RAHUL
Won 8
Lost 4
Win%: 66.7%

TEMBA BAVUMA
Won 25
Lost 21
NR - 1
Win%: 53.2%

INDIA'S RECORD AT JSCA STADIUM, RANCHI
WON - 3, LOST - 2, NR - 1

Compiled by Arun Gopalakrishnan

Foden spares City's blushes

LONDON, AFP

Phil Foden spared Manchester City's blushes with the last-gasp winner after the Premier League title challengers blew a two-goal lead in a dramatic 3-2 win over lowly Leeds on Saturday.

Pep Guardiola's side were in danger of losing more ground in the title race following a second half collapse at the Etihad Stadium.

Foden and Josko Gvardiol put City two up before the interval, but third-bottom Leeds hit back through Dominic Calvert-Lewin and Lukas Nmecha. Foden clinched a nerve-jangling victory that lifted City into second place, four points behind leaders Arsenal, who travel to third-placed Chelsea on Sunday. It was a much-needed win after consecutive defeats against Newcastle last weekend and Bayer Leverkusen on Tuesday. Guardiola's decision to make 10 changes against Leverkusen backfired in a 2-0 loss that prompted the furious Spaniard to claim his players "didn't try". Foden, Erling Haaland, Bernardo Silva, Gianluigi Donnarumma were among the stars back in City's starting line-up for the Leeds clash. City had made their worst start to a campaign for five years and their second-worst under Guardiola.

Manchester City's Phil Foden celebrates after scoring the winning goal against Leeds in Manchester on Saturday. REUTERS

Leeds grabbed a shock equaliser in the 68th minute when Gvardiol fouled Calvert-Lewin. Although Nmecha's penalty was saved by Donnarumma, the forward recovered to score from the rebound. Chasing his 100th top-flight goal, Haaland was unusually subdued but Foden picked up the slack in stoppage-time.

Result: Brentford: 3 (Thiago 81st-pen, 86th, Ouattara 90+3) bt Burnley: 1 (Flemming 85th-pen); Manchester City: 3 (Foden 1st, 90+1, Gvardiol 25th) bt Leeds: 2 (Calvert-Lewin 49th, Nmecha 68th); Sunderland: 3 (Le Fee 30th-pen, Traore 46th, Brobbey 69th) bt Bournemouth: 2 (Adli 7th, Adams 15th).

Barca take Liga lead

Dani Olmo struck twice for Barcelona to take the Catalans provisionally top of La Liga with a 3-1 win over Alaves on Saturday.

After Pablo Ibanez fired the visitors into a surprise lead in the first minute, Barca hit back through teenage star Lamine Yamal, set up by the returning Raphinha.

Olmo gave Barca the advantage midway through the first half and then netted late on to seal their victory in the second match back at their partially rebuilt Camp Nou home.

Results: Barcelona: 3 (Yamal 8th, Olmo 26th, 90+3rd) bt Alaves: 1 (Ibanez 1st); Mallorca: 2 (Muriqi 62nd P, 66th) drew with Osasuna: 2 (Raul Garcia 82nd, Boyomo 90+2nd).

MI take on RCB in season opener

MUMBAI, PTI: Harmanpreet Kaur-led defending champions Mumbai Indians will face 2024 winners Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the opening match of the fourth Women's Premier League on January 9 at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai.

In a first for the tournament, the WPL final will not be held on a weekend, with the summit clash scheduled for a Thursday (February 5), likely to avoid a clash with the men's T20 World Cup, which begins the same week in India and Sri Lanka.

The T20 World Cup opens with a match between Pakistan and Netherlands on February 7 (Saturday) in Colombo.

The 28-day, 22-match WPL will be played across two venues.

DY Patil Stadium, which witnessed India's maiden women's ICC global title.

RCB Schedule: vs MI (Jan 9); vs UPW (Jan 12); vs GG (Jan 16); vs DC (Jan 17); vs GG (Jan 19); vs DC (Jan 24); vs MI (Jan 26); vs UPW (Jan 29).

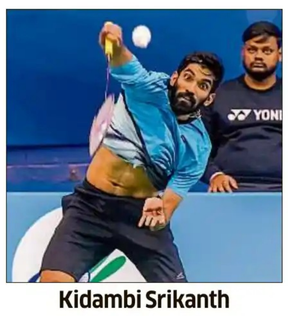
Treesa-Gayatri, Srikanth advance

LUCKNOW, PTI

Former champion Kidambi Srikanth and defending women's doubles winners Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand notched up contrasting wins to progress to the men's and women's doubles finals of the Syed Modi International badminton tournament here on Saturday.

The 32-year-old Srikanth, who lifted the title in 2016, staved off a spirited challenge from compatriot and 2023 national champion Mithun Manjunath to prevail 21-15, 19-21, 21-13 in a pulsating last-four clash.

A 2021 World Championships silver medallist, Srikanth, who had earlier reached the final of the Malaysia Masters this season, now awaits the winner of the other semifinal between Hong Kong's Jason Gunawan and Japan's Minoru Koga.



Kidambi Srikanth

Moments before Srikanth's victory, world No. 14 Treesa and Gayatri displayed sharp tactical awareness and excellent control of the conditions to record a commanding 21-11, 21-15 win over Malaysia's world No. 33 Ong Xin Yee and Carmen Ting in the women's doubles semifinals.

The Indian pair, playing only their second event since Gayatri's return from a five-month shoulder injury layoff, will face Japan's eighth seeds Kaho Osawa and Mai Tanabe in Sunday's final as they seek to defend their crown.

Prabhav, Aaryan star for Rajajinagar Cricketers

BENGALURU, DHNS: Prabhav Pydah hammered a double ton while team-mate Aaryan Nagesh scored a century to power Rajajinagar Cricketers to a dominating 305-run win over Vikram Cricket Club in the KSCA Group I, Division I, II, III under-14 inter-club tournament here.

While Prabhav's knock of 202 off 148 balls had 25 boundaries, Aaryan's 123 came off 84 balls and had 15 fours.

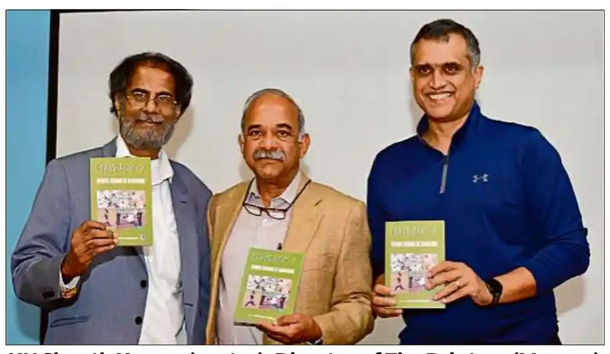
Riding on the duo's heroics and a half-century cameo by Jeevan, Rajajinagar Cricketers amassed 441 for three in 50 overs.

With a big target staring down at them, Vikram Cricket Club succumbed under pressure with G Bipin Shetty (3/36) and Anirudh (3/20) claiming three wickets each before VCC were skittled out for a mere 136 in 33.1 overs.

LOCAL CRICKET

Brief scores: Rajajinagar Cricketers: 441/3 in 50 overs (Prabhav Pydah 202, Jeevan 50, Aaryan Nagesh 123) bt Vikram CC: 136 all out in 33.1 overs (Pratinav Paul 50; G Bipin Shetty 3-36, Anirudh 3-20).
Young Lions Club: 346/6 in 50 overs (Yathin R Gowda 91, Raunak Kumar Singh 141, Saatvik Sanikop 39 n.o., Mohammed Yaseen 37; Sathvik Holla 2-45, Hruthvik Reddy 2-54) bt Friends Union Cricketers, KGF: 84 all out in 31.1 overs (Dhruvdinesh TV 2-22, Rahul Jena 4-2).
Century Cricketers: 188/8 in 50 overs (Sachith Shetty 71, Ayush 39; Urukuti Shrians VK Babu 2-23, Hrydey A 3-15) bt The Bangalore Cricketers: 148 all out in 45 overs (Hemanth N 39, Ishaan S Kumar 36; Laksh Manickam 2-30, Lalitaditya G 5-26).
Kapali CC: 207/6 in 50 overs (U Shreemano 84, Arush Jadhav 28, H Shajith 46 n.o.; Aditya LM 2-29) bt Hammonds CC: 206/9 in 50 overs (Sangeeta Rao Sashang 79, Lalithesh R 66, Surya Rajesh 25 n.o.; Raghavan Krishnakumar 3-36, Arush Jadhav 2-34).
Coles CC: 261/8 in 50 overs (Rajveer Kumar Rai 50, Dwit Shailesh Kukarvadiya 62, Eric Rupreo 70; Rishi Rege 3-35) lt to Cambridge CC: 263/4 in 44.1 overs (Aryan Nagoji 83, M Kanishk Reddy 70, Jash Karia 31 n.o.; Eric Rupreo 2-46).
Johnson CC: 152 all out in 49.2 overs (Divyam Kumawat 42, Aadit Kaul 34; Saurjyesh Das 3-35, Krishna 2-31, Gautam 3-6) lt to Bangalore SC: 153/1 in 19.4 overs (Pavandeep R Bharadakane 72 n.o., Saurjyesh Das 68).

SPECIAL UNVEIL



KN Shanth Kumar (centre), Director of The Printers (Mysore) Limited, launched the book "Playback-2: Sports Legends of Bengaluru" at the KSBA on Saturday. Editor of the book Stanley Carvalho (left) and Sports lawyer Nandan Kamath pose along. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

DPS North emerge champions

BENGALURU, DHNS: Yathaarth Mishra, Imran Shujath Ali, Shibi Thomas and Aarav Aradhya Ashwin scored as Delhi Public School, North's emerged champions of the Parikrma Champions League, beating Government Pottery Town High School 4-0 at the Bangalore Football Stadium.

Result: Delhi Public School North: 4 (Yathaarth Mishra 8th, Imran Shujath Ali 33rd, Shibi Thomas 36th, Aarav Aradhya Ashwin 56th) bt Pottery Town High School: 0. **Special Awards: Player of the tournament:** Md Ashif (Govt Pottery Town High School); **Best Goalkeeper:** Ryyan Siddique, DPS, North); **Best Defender:** Dheer Madhu Srivara, DPS, North; **Best Midfielder:** Aaron Shibi Thomas, DPS, North; **Top Scorer:** Raju Mardi, Kalinga Institute Of Social Sciences, Bhubaneswar; **Best Coach:** Udhaya Kumar, Head Start Educational Academy.

'Made to swim in freezing conditions'

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Many medals were up for grabs in the swimming events of the Khelo India University Games (KIUG). But the conditions in which the swimmers were forced to compete left many participants frustrated.

Two-time Olympian and India's top swimmer Srihari Nataraj hit out at the organisers while expressing his displeasure.

"The temperature of the water here was as low as 17-18 degrees (Celsius). It was freezing," Srihari, who was representing Jain University at the Jaipur meet, told *DH*.

"The international standard for competitions is around 25-28 degrees (Celsius)," pointed out the 24-year-old. "Many swimmers, including me had fingers turning blue. A few had breathing issues. I mean, all we expect is things to be organised in a certain way that doesn't compromise our health or risk getting injured. It is disappointing to see one of the premier multi-sport events being arranged this way."

Srihari Nataraj hit out at the KIUG organisers on Saturday.

Though the swimming complex at the SMS Stadium in Jaipur is an indoor facility, the main competition pool is not equipped with temperature control system. And the water gets colder than normal at this time of the year here.

"The warm-up pool had a heating system but not the main pool. Another issue was there were no backstroke ledges (a device that provides support for the legs of swimmers at the starting point in backstroke races). We managed to compete without them.

"When we are made to swim in competitions without the basics being taken care of, it feels unfair. I could have walked away but I had a responsibility of showing up for my university and didn't want to let them down. We swimmers deserve better," said an irate Srihari.

Organised by the the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Sports Authority of India (SAI), Association of Universities, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and the respective National Sports Federations, it is the combined effort of all the entities to ensure the smooth running of the annual multi-discipline event.

When *DH* asked about the sub-standard conditions in which swimmers were compelled to compete, a SAI representative at the venue said that the sports body was only involved in funding the event and not the nitty-gritties of conducting a sport.

Monal Chokshi, the general secretary of Swimming Federation of India (SFI), told *DH* that providing proper infrastructure and ensuring ideal conditions for participants was the responsibility of the Sports Department of Rajasthan, the organising state of this year's KIUG.

"At the end of the day we (SFI) are not the organisers. We are only responsible for recording times, conducting and scheduling the events. As far as the infrastructure goes, we cannot say that we are not going to conduct the competition just because you have given us a bad venue," said Chokshi.

INSCRUTABLE CHINA

Rising China, wary Japan reboot Asian power race

Srikanth Kondapalli
the JNU Prof has been Peking behind the Bamboo Curtain for 30 years
@Sri_Kondapalli

A storm is brewing around a race for leadership in Asia, with China rising further as a global force, at the Centre of it. The immediate trigger was Japan's "iron lady" Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's recent statement in Parliament that China's military invasion of Taiwan would be an "existential crisis" to Japan. This is possible as any invasion of Taiwan could disturb the Indo-Pacific sea lanes of communications that now converge on Taiwan. Japan, in the 1930s, assiduously protected these trade routes.

Xue Jian, the Chinese consul general at Osaka, said "that filthy neck be cut off". While this comment was removed from X, the damage was done to bilateral relations. Like other "wolf warriors" before, who advocated aggressive nationalist sentiments, Xue's comments prevailed in China, as seen in the continuing wrangling. Hectic diplomatic activities followed, and calls were made for a ban on Japanese products and tourist flows.

It was only a week ago that the leaders of China and Japan met at the APEC summit in South Korea, where they reiterated a "mutually beneficial relationship based on common strategic interests". This edifice is falling. The Japan-China spat draws on domestic political turmoil that could also affect regional security, global power equations, and economic development. China's orchestrated campaign against Japan is a reflection of domestic political distractions. Last month, China held its delayed Fourth Plenum meeting, which witnessed a formal dismissal of large numbers of high-level military officials, an indication of the brewing discontent, both in the communist party factions as well as in the armed forces. This needs to be stemmed, and an external distraction like Japan is necessary.

To drum up nationalism, China has been conducting massive anti-Japanese military parades in Beijing, as in 2015 and 2025. China's social media had hyped up demands to seize the Ryukyu Islands, as with territories in Russia, India, and others. Its naval and air forces have been mobilising might to dominate the Bashi Channel and Miyako Straits. The weaponising of sea lanes of communications is intensifying.

At the economic level, the latest frictions could impact bilateral trade, investment, and markets. Over 31,000 cutting-edge Japanese companies are operating in China, the largest number globally for Japan. They have elevated China's technological prowess. Japan's aid to China is more than $40 billion, while direct investments surpassed $100 billion and bilateral trade $292 billion in 2024. Despite such interdependence, China does not appear satisfied. In 2010, it banned the export of rare earth metals to Japan over the Senkaku Islands controversy.

Globally, United States President Donald Trump exerted pressure on Japan to scale down on Taiwan. This was in the aftermath of the October 31 US-China deal with President Xi Jinping at Busan, where Beijing assured the US to resume rare earth metal exports, thus increasing the US dependence on China. If the Busan deal signified a global power transition between the US and China, the Japan-China row is an assertion of China's hold over the region.

The current US position on its military ally in East Asia is way farther than it had articulated under the Obama Administration. Obama, at that time, clarified to *Yomiuri Shimbun* that the Senkaku Islands come under Article 5 of the bilateral treaty and that the US opposes any unilateral attempts to change Japan's administration of these islands. While the Senkaku Islands and Taiwan are different issues, the previous US security signals avoided strategic ambiguity, while Trump is putting the brakes on Japan.

China is also said to be miffed with Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong's statement on Japan as a trusted great power and that historical issues have been put aside. While Southeast Asia has come to terms with Japan, China refuses to do so.

Japan defeated China in 1895 and thus questioned the Middle Kingdom. More significantly, China fears that, despite its recent phenomenal rise in economy, technology, and military, the Japanese *bushido* style could constrain China's ambitions to dominate. Taiwan is a blip in this scheme of things. Like the UK-France rivalry in the 19th century, the China-Japan rivalry is acute in Asia.

With India, despite recent efforts at normalisation, a local "wolf warrior" stirred up the pot by detaining an Arunachal Pradesh resident, Pema Wang Thongdok, who was transiting through Shanghai. China had not explained why it broke international conventions on the right of passage.

The emerging tensions in East Asia are likely to impact India. In any future trouble with China on the border dispute, Beijing's behaviour would be aggressive – weaponising tourism, banning rare earth metals for Indian automobiles and electronics, providing critical support to South Asian countries, and deploying naval fleets in the Indian Ocean. The 2020 Galwan clashes resulted in a washout of bilateral relations for nearly five years. India needs to be prepared for such contingencies.

THE DIGITAL ALARMIST

New Americans. In service to Empire

During his two terms in office, Barack Obama deported more than 3 million non-citizens, making him the president with the highest number of deportations in US history. His drone programme represented a massive expansion compared to previous administrations, with the programme becoming a "covert war on terror" that was ten times larger than Bush's operations. He consistently undercounted civilian casualties and treated Western and non-Western victims differently – apologising and promising investigations for Western civilian deaths while ignoring non-Western casualties – and authorised missile strikes on Iraq without congressional approval.

The late Henry Kissinger and Secretary of State Marco Rubio are well-known hawks who facilitated US support for authoritarian regimes (only the right-wing ones) and spread the imperium's message to Latin America, China, and Southeast Asia. Kissinger was responsible for bombing much of Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War and causing political havoc involving much bloodshed in Chile and Argentina.

South Korean John Yoo, assistant deputy attorney general in the Justice Department, signed off on waterboarding and other "enhanced interrogation methods" during George Bush's war on terror following the September 11 attacks.

UN ambassador and later Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, unapologetically defended the sanctions placed on Iraq by stating that even though over half a million children died, the price was worth it and that "If we have to use force, it is because we are America; we are the indispensable nation."

As UN ambassador, Nimrata 'Nikki' Haley defended the Trump administration's decision to withdraw the US from the Iran nuclear deal, the Paris climate agreement, and the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Roger Marshall
is a computer scientist, a newly minted Luddite and a cynic

Zbigniew Brzezinski, who advised President Lyndon Johnson during the Vietnam War and served as President Jimmy Carter's National Security Advisor, developed the Carter Doctrine, which committed the US to use military force in defence of the Persian Gulf. It is no accident that Qatar now has the largest US military base outside of the continental US.

Stephen Miller, special advisor to Trump, oversees the inhumane treatment of immigrants, legal or otherwise, and has them deported by offering monetary compensation to the accepting countries, primarily in Africa.

And Elon Musk! Need I say more?

What links the actions and comments of people like Obama, Albright, Yoo, Kissinger, Rubio, Haley, Brzezinski, and Miller is that they are all what I would label as 'new' Americans – first-generation naturalised Americans and their offspring, second-generation Americans who carry forward the message of Empire.

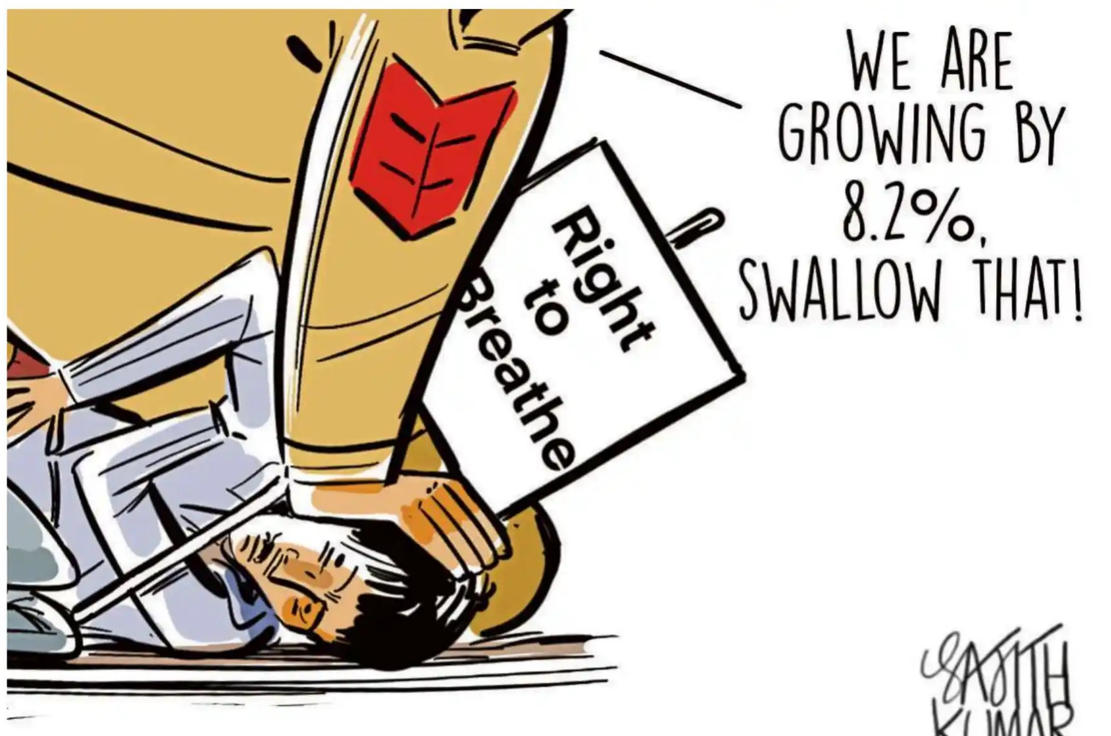
Add to the above list of new Americans some of the biggest names in the IT sector – Pichai (Google), Nadella (Microsoft), Krishna (IBM), Sankar (Palantir) – people who have meekly accepted their role in the war on democracy by Trump to protect their businesses.

Before he was elected President in 1960, John F Kennedy authored *Profiles in Courage*, a book which detailed the courageous acts of eight US senators who, despite public condemnation and disapproval, reined in the autocratic powers of the House Speaker, spoke out against arming US merchant ships during the US' neutral period in World War I, and supported the presidential campaign of a Catholic in a predominantly Protestant country.

If one were to write a sequel to Kennedy's *Profiles in Courage*, it would have to be titled *Profiles in Cowardice*, and Indian IT leaders in the US would figure prominently. The list would also include PM Modi for not challenging Trump's decision to deport over 300 Indians, all of whom were manacled and shackled, to Amritsar in US Air Force planes. Sadly, money trumps all.

Contrast Albright's comments with those of noted British author and biographer Margaret Drabble: "My anti-Americanism has become almost uncontrollable. It has possessed me, like a disease. It rises up in my throat like acid reflux, that fashionable American sickness. I now loathe the United States and what it has done to Iraq and the rest of the helpless world." She condemned "American imperialism, American infantilism, and American triumphalism about victories it didn't even win" and recalled George Orwell's words in *Nineteen Eighty-Four* about the intoxication of power and "the thrill of victory, the sensation of trampling on an enemy who is helpless. If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face – forever".

Will the newly elected mayor of NYC, Zohran Mamdani, whose father was expelled from Uganda during the Idi Amin regime, soon join the august company of Kissinger, Haley, and Obama? You bet.



OUTSIDE

Of Surveillance State and the leaking bucket

It was the bucket on the right that my eyes kept returning to, even as I was moved by the actors on stage, what I was being led to feel and think. I was one among many watching students of the National School of Drama performing Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* under Amitesh Grover's direction. I noticed things with admiration: Sarah Mariam's translation of the play into Hindi, particularly the use of dialects, the acting, and, of course, the set and light design. As I walked out of Mandi House, I ran into Sarthak Narula, set designer. 'What you did with everyday objects was quite amazing,' I said to him, thinking of the tablecloth, a ladle, chairs, and, of course, the bucket. I was still processing my thoughts – the social intelligence of performing the play in a city and a country and a world where a new McCarthyism has become the norm, our addiction to truth as a species, and so on.

And yet it was the bucket that stuck in my head. Stubborn about pursuing a trail of thought, I began to wonder why it should be so. Like many students of English literature in India, I had had to read *The Crucible* to pass examinations. I knew many of the dialogues by heart, but I couldn't remember a bucket in Miller's text. I almost scolded myself for being fixated on it. But curiosity, that thing like a kettle on a stove, took over, and I began looking for – yes – the bucket. The internet always rewards waywardness and wastefulness. So there it was, in a *Tatler* review of the play at the Globe earlier this year: 'Entering the open-air theatre, all conversations came to a halt. But the play is far from starting. Rather, actors wander around with pitchforks, rifles and buckets, leaving the audience truly consumed by the world of the Salem witch trials... The show has begun.'

The pitchfork in the open-air theatre at the Globe belonged to the outside. The spoons and ladles in the Hindi *Crucible* were house inmates, their form created by the assurance of the inside. The affiliations to a particular space were clear. But one couldn't be sure about the bucket. Was this why it had remained stuck in my eye? There's something in the shape of a bucket – it resembles the shape of a well, or anything that can hold water, the reason *wiadro*, the Polish word for it, derives from *wed*, related to water – that makes them slightly amphibious, a thing whose form lends itself to the weathering of the outside and the intimacies of the inside, or something that allows for the outside to be ferried to the inside. McCarthyism 2.0, a surveillant and censorious state, has entered homes: the religious-legal infrastructure is taking away wives as witches.

Sumana Roy
is an author and poet. Her books include *How I Became a Tree* and *Provincials*

I cannot forget that bucket supplies a large-bodied idiom to language. It appears early in our English-speaking life, as a children's song, *"There's a hole in my bucket"*, a song about a circular loop, a deadlock that seems impossible to solve because of its contradictory nature. There's a hole in the bucket, one character says to the other. It can be fixed with a straw. But the straw is too long; it needs to be cut. For that, a knife is necessary, but the knife needs to be sharpened, and for that, a wet sharpening stone would be needed. The stone might be found, but water? For that, a bucket is necessary. But the bucket has a hole in it. The conversation continues in this futility loop.

This is the world of Miller's play; this is also the world outside *The Crucible*, the world of the audience that was watching it in Delhi. I heard the nervous laughter around me. Executive, legislature, judiciary, all coming together to create an endless loop of surveillance out of which there is no way to prove one's innocence as a social being, a human being. There's a hole in the bucket – in Salem and America, then and now, in Delhi and India.

'A hole in the bucket' also describes a person constantly seeking attention, who feels attention leaking away. It is not just Abigail in the play, the young girl who falsely accuses the women of Salem of being witches, who, to get a man's attention and the power that comes with it, destroys a community. Running governments in many countries today are different versions of Abigail, with holes in their buckets. That's all they need – bouquets.

THE Z FACTOR

A rare show of political civility

Last week, New York City's newly elected mayor, Zohran Mamdani, went to the White House to see US President Donald Trump. Everyone expected a public blow-up. For months, during Mamdani's election campaign, the two men had traded barbs at each other and lobbed accusations. And when Trump has met rivals and enemies one-on-one in the past, he has often confronted them publicly.

In February, for instance, Trump shouted at Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and unceremoniously kicked him out. Months later, Trump confronted South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa with incendiary allegations of white genocide. Trump also routinely derides and scolds reporters and staffers in full view of cameras.

The Trump administration has often characterised these public confrontations as a mark of honesty. Only a day before Mamdani's meeting, the White House press secretary had said, "[The] president being frank and open and honest to your faces, rather than hiding behind your backs, is frankly a lot more respectful than what you saw in the last administration."

Mamdani seemed destined for similar treatment. He epitomised everything that ran counter to Trump's political movement: he is a foreign-born immigrant, a Muslim, a democratic socialist, and publicly unapologetic on all counts. Yet, the feared showdown never happened. From start to finish, Mamdani's meeting was full of smiles, cordial handshakes, and warm photo shoots. Trump even came to the mayor-elect's defence when reporters tried to remind the two men of their past public insults. He later posted a picture of Mamdani on social media, featuring him alone in front of a portrait of President Franklin D. Roosevelt – another democratic socialist.

How did this all go so well? To understand why Mamdani's meeting was so polite and cordial, one must first understand how political discourse got so rude and uncivil.

A century ago, the First World War, the Great Depression, and the effects of colonialism combined to give rise to a wave of identity politics around the world. In Europe, Nazi parties and their allies turned their guns on Jews across the continent. In America, Jim Crow laws and race-based segregation were in full force. In India, a Hindu-Muslim rift led to a manufactured Partition that displaced millions.

Mohamed Zeeshan
is a student of all things global and, self-confessedly, master of none, notwithstanding his Columbia Master's, a stint with the UN and with monarchs in the Middle East
@ZeeMohamed_

But the end of World War II and the fall of colonialism also pressed the need for rebuilding, and a door was opened for world leaders to refocus on economic goals. Politics henceforth began to be dominated by economic questions: Should the economy be led by the government or by private enterprise? Should countries trade? Are cities more important than villages?

To be sure, these questions could often break out into ugly fights and even wars. But for the most part, it was easier to debate and discuss questions of economic policy than identity or culture. People are liable to change their views on trade, inflation, and state control of the economy. They are unlikely to change their place of birth, religion or ethnicity.

The end of the Cold War appeared to settle the economic questions. With the fall of the Soviet Union, most countries around the world moved towards market economics and capitalism. Political candidates in the developing world actively campaigned based on economic reform, empowering private enterprises, and seeking trade deals with the rest of the world. In the West, candidates focused on driving global leadership on those issues.

In that atmosphere, running a political campaign on identity lines was not the wisest. In the search for economic success, people forgot their own biases. If you want to grow your business or national economy, you must work with people of all castes, creeds and kinds.

Arguably, the first blow to that order was struck on 9/11. By launching a barbaric assault defined on religious and ethnic lines, Osama bin Laden brought back the politics of identity to the high table.

A few recessions, wars and pandemics later, the global consensus on economics-driven politics has come to an end. Countries have reverted to the logic that led to World War II: stoking fear against imagined enemies, caricaturing entire peoples as traitors, and lobbing insults in the name of speaking inconvenient truths.

This is where Mamdani's meeting with Trump did well to pause the cycle. Neither Trump nor Mamdani disavowed their ideological positions last week. But they smiled at each other long enough to focus on things that everyone can agree on: creating jobs, reducing living costs, and improving wages. Perhaps that's what politics should always be about.

CULTURE AND COSMOS

Empowering women at work? Let's start at home

Shaifali Sandhya
is an international psychologist, former professor, and writer on culture, cosmopolitanism, and global affairs

Modern India is rewriting its labour laws and promoting women's economic empowerment with unprecedented urgency. Yet the old expectations remain untouched. The biggest pressure on modern marriage is this mismatch between new economic realities and the older gender scripts that still govern roles, power, and identity. This tension is hardly unique to India. Across continents, marriages are strained by the unspoken assumptions couples inherit about who should earn, who should sacrifice, and who should decide.

In The Gambia, Aissa, 37, divorced her husband shortly after discovering he had taken a second wife – legal under local custom but a violation of the private bargain she believed they shared. Law and religion mattered, but the deeper fault line was the unspoken "deal" she thought existed. When that implicit contract collapses, couples fall back on inherited norms, turning homes into quiet battlegrounds.

India's story, different in specifics, is similar in structure. When Riya, a fintech employee in Bengaluru, received a promotion, household finances improved, but domestic harmony frayed. Her husband joked about having "two bosses," while his parents questioned why she needed to work late when "their son already provided." What appears as family teasing is better understood as the old cultural script asserting itself: a "good" wife sacrifices and understands; a "good" husband guides and controls.

These scripts shape women's participation in India's economy just as the government urges women forward. Women make up only one in three participants in the labour force – a modest rise but far below most major economies. Economists usually explain this gap through supply and demand: job availability, skills, or discrimination. The new labour codes promise safer workplaces, extended maternity protections, and formalisation of employment. Prime Minister Modi praises women as pillars of national development.

Yet public policy and private belief often move in opposite directions. New research shows that many Indian husbands hesitate to support their wives' employment because they fear a shift in decision-making power at home. To preserve their status, some discourage wives from working, insisting it is "not the right time," blocking opportunities, or invoking childcare concerns.

Crucially, these fears rest not only on tradition but on misperception. In one study, Indian men overestimated community disapproval of women working by more than 20 percentage points. When shown the actual attitudes – that peers were more supportive than assumed – their resistance softened.

Meanwhile, women continue to shoulder the heavier burden of the domestic economy. Indian women perform 288 minutes of unpaid household work a day, compared with 88 minutes for men, and spend roughly twice as much time on unpaid care. This imbalance reflects the old bargain in which a "good" man provides materially while a "good" woman supports emotionally. But as economic realities shift faster than identities can adapt, tension follows.

Some assume that women's rising incomes will ease this strain. The evidence is mixed. A 2025 study of 500,000 Indian households found that dual-earner couples in which the woman earns more report greater marital conflict. International data echo this: across OECD countries, couples often report lower marital satisfaction when the woman is the primary earner. The problem is not women's earnings, which often keep households afloat, but the outdated ideal of male breadwinning. Thus, as women earn more, household finances may stabilise, but male self-worth may wobble.

At the same time, the public performance of marriage grows louder. Families in India may spend up to 30% of their lifetime savings on a wedding. Yet the ceremony says nothing about post-wedding negotiations: who handles chores, whose career bends, whose ambition counts. An economy has been built around the wedding, but not around the life that follows.

Globally, the old gender contract is dissolving. In The Gambia, known for older European women seeking romantic or transactional relationships, younger men or "bumsters" offer companionship in exchange for gifts or migration. In the West, it's not uncommon for successful Indian women to marry lower-educated white men who take up domestic chores while women remain breadwinners. Economic change is rewriting possibilities faster than cultural expectations can adjust.

What would it take to craft a healthier "new marriage deal"? First, treat gender norms as hard economic constraints. Shifting men's beliefs – through religious leaders, educational messaging, or workplace training – can make it respectable, even aspirational, for men to share earnings and care. Second, update institutions. Even as India promotes women's work through new labour codes, tax systems, pension rules, and public-safety structures reflect a male-breadwinner model. Finally, couples must do the quiet work of negotiation. Saying "I let my wife work" frames employment as a concession; calling women's earnings "extra" frames them as expendable.

Women's economic progress depends on shared responsibility at home. Only when men share the work of the home can women fully share the work of the world.

DECCAN HERALD
Sunday
November 30, 2025

Hidden victims, open wounds

DH ILLUSTRATION: **DEEPAK HARICHANDAN**

India's new criminal code still defines rape solely as a man assaulting a woman, rendering male and transgender survivors legally invisible. Their cases remain unrecorded, untreated, and unpunished, thereby creating a dangerous systemic blind spot, reports Venkatesh R

Disbelief, shame, silence — survivors of sexual violence grapple with an array of emotional and psychological shocks. For male and trans survivors, the burden is heavier still: the law does not even acknowledge that they can be victims.

India rewrote its British-era criminal laws in 2024, replacing the Indian Penal Code with the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Yet what remained untouched was its imagination of who a rape survivor can be. In the eyes of the law, that survivor is still only a woman.

Under Section 63 of the BNS, rape is defined solely as a "man" committing the act against a "woman." Men and most trans people simply do not exist in that definition. They disappear before the law even begins to speak.

This isn't a drafting slip — it's a worldview. Advocate K M Sai Apabharana, partner at Allied Law Practices, explains that when male or transgender survivors report sexual assault, they are pushed into provisions meant for "hurt," "grievous hurt," or "criminal force." None of these captures the sexual nature of the violence, and the penalties are far lighter. "They provide limited legal avenues for redress," she says.

What the law refuses to name, society refuses to see. In police stations, courtrooms, and even therapy rooms, survivors who are not women are met with disbelief, laughter, or silence. Their trauma doesn't fit the statute, and so it doesn't count.

Arvind Narrain, lawyer and co-founder of Alternative Law Forum, spells it out more bluntly: "The victim is gender-specific... the only person who can be subjected to sexual violence is defined as a woman." That single clause narrows the entire legal imagination, pushing survivors outside the frame before they can even report a crime.

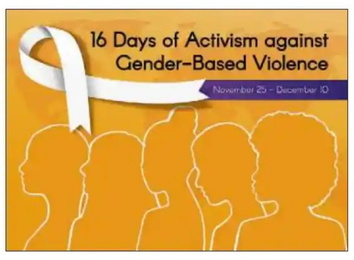
> You cannot measure what the law refuses to see, and that erasure shapes public attitudes. The absence of recognition fuels harmful stereotypes, which survivors then internalise as shame, fear, and the expectation of disbelief. All of this discourages them from reporting.

The result is legal improvisation. "If the sexual-violence part is out of the picture," Narrain says, "then you're left with assault, grievous hurt, hurt, criminal intimidation". None of these, he points out, comes close to naming sexual violence for what it is.

Not just this. Apabharana points to the age gap that cleaves protection in two: under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, a 17-year-old boy can be recognised as a rape victim, but the moment he turns 18, the law abandons him. One day, you are a victim; the next day, you are invisible.

Both lawyers describe what that invisibility looks like on the ground. "Procedurally, these social and legal gaps often result in hesitation or uncertainty at the stage of FIR registration," Apabharana says. Police are unsure which section to invoke; prosecutors hesitate to take the case. Institutions meant to support survivors "find it challenging to respond effectively."

The silence that follows is not incidental. It is built into the law.



A law that erases, a record that forgets

Every year, the National Crime Records Bureau tallies up 'Crimes Against Women'. Pages of charts, graphs, and conviction rates are all neatly arranged. But there is not a single line for men or transgender survivors. They do not exist in the data because they do not exist in the law.

Narrain agrees that this is not just a data problem. Our legal imagination has completely kept men and trans persons outside the framework. We have built a culture of impunity, that too a critical kind, solely targeting a specific set of communities, leaving them completely vulnerable.

Apabharana notes that because the statute itself is gender-specific, even data collection is skewed. You cannot measure what the law refuses to see, and that erasure shapes public attitudes. The absence of recognition fuels harmful stereotypes, which survivors then internalise as shame, fear, and the expectation of disbelief. All of this discourages them from reporting.

That blind spot sustains a vicious cycle: without data, there is no visibility, and without visibility, there is no reform.

And that invisibility shows up in the numbers — or rather, in their absence. A 2024 working paper from the Centre for Law and Policy Research found that more than 94% of Indian States and Union Territories reported zero cases of sexual violence against men or transgender persons.

A 2025 study by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences and the Queer & Allied Research Network found nearly seven in 10 male survivors never sought formal help, citing fear of ridicule and "lack of a proper legal provision". Among trans persons, it was eight in 10.

Counsellor Mahesh Natarajan, who works with queer and trauma survivors, says the damage runs deep. "The absence of legal recognition and the social silence around sexual violence on male and trans persons disenfranchises this suffering," he says. "It makes the suffering invisible and the victims objects of ridicule and shame."

Silence isn't a choice

For most male and transgender survivors, silence isn't a choice — it's survival. When the law does not recognise your pain, even therapy starts to feel like rebellion.

Raghav (*name changed on request*), a 29-year-old survivor from Bengaluru, still remembers the question that ended his search for justice. "It wasn't about the act," he says. "It was about that moment when someone takes your power away." After the assault, he quit boxing — the one thing that had kept him grounded. "You can't tell your friends because you're supposed to look like a man," he says. "You can't tell the person you're dating because it's not considered... attractive. So you just carry it. Forever."

For him, his family's disbelief cut deeper than the assault itself. "The man who did this was my mother's brother," he says. "I told her, and she said I was imagining it. That broke something in me. After that, drinking was easier than feeling."

He explained what this kind of trauma does to an adult who grew up with it. "It eats into your self-worth. You carry this feeling that you're hiding something, all the time. It shows up everywhere — in work, in relationships. And there's guilt, like you've done something wrong."

During the pandemic, he says, an unexpected conversation pulled those memories back to the surface. "I was dating someone who, out of nowhere, told me she'd been abused as a child," he says. "It was the first time she'd said it out loud, and the first time I heard someone else say it. That's what triggered mine."

Then came the observation that exposes a wider, quieter truth. "People think this happens only to the poor, the uneducated, people in red-light areas," he says. "But it's happening everywhere — in offices, in corporate circles, among people who seem in control. That's what makes it so easy for predators. The shame, the stigma, the fear of losing everything — that's what keeps them safe."

Adil (*name changed on request*), a 27-year-old trans man from Bengaluru, describes the same pattern of isolation — just through a different lens. "People don't understand what it means to be violated when you already live in a body the world doesn't fully accept," he says. "I didn't even know what to call it — rape, assault, violation? The police didn't know either." When he finally approached a station, the officer asked, "But what are you, exactly?" Adil never went back.

> When we go to the police, they don't even understand what we are talking about. They don't know which section to file under, and half the time they laugh. For the State, our pain doesn't exist. For the public, we are a joke. Where do we go?

Like Raghav, Adil found his pain eating into his everyday life. "You start avoiding mirrors. You start thinking the body is your enemy. And you stop believing anyone will ever understand."

Natarajan says such stories are far more common than most people realise. Their dismissal, however, leaves scars that outlast the violence. "Male and trans survivors face a deeper psychological trauma," Natarajan says. "We see self-shaming, self-harm, distorted sexual health, punishing behaviours, even survivors turning aggressors themselves."

Inside therapy rooms, he adds, healing begins with being believed. "For many queer survivors, therapy becomes what families and systems are not — safe," he says. "As queer therapists, we work to break stigma and help survivors reframe their story — not as victims, but as people reclaiming their lives."

However, even healing has its limits when the world outside remains unchanged. "When people can't access support or work on their trauma with community-based resources, the trauma stays in their bodies," Natarajan says.

The law may refuse to name it, but trauma has its own voice — in fear, in anger, in the way survivors learn to move through rooms like ghosts. "Sexual violence," Natarajan says, "is war waged within our own society. If justice and support aren't available to all survivors, the loss belongs to all of us."

Reinforcing biases

India's rape law doesn't just reflect bias; it reinforces it. The message is simple and brutal: only women can be victims, only men can be violators.

In Bengaluru, activists say India's rape law does not just reflect bias but reinforces it. "The law sees us as an afterthought," says transgender activist and Supreme Court-appointed advisory committee member Akkai Padmashali, who has spent years fighting to widen that definition. "It says protection is only for a woman, but what about us? Are we not human beings? Are we not citizens of this country?"

For Padmashali, this fight is not just about legal reform; it is about existence itself. "When we go to the police, they don't even understand what we're talking about. They don't know which section to file under, and half the time, they laugh," she says. "For the state, our pain doesn't exist. For the public, we're a joke. So where do we go?"

Even language, she says, becomes its own violence. "Everything about rape in our laws is written in binaries — man and woman. But consent is a human thing, not a gendered thing. The law should be based on consent, not gender."

Feminist activist Madhu Bhushan agrees that India's imagination of sexual violence is trapped in "a patriarchal, heteronormative frame". But she warns against a simplistic fix. "If you make rape law completely gender-neutral in a society that's still patriarchal, it can be turned against women," she says. "The power dynamics are not equal yet."

Padmashali disagrees. "When the law denies you recognition, it denies you justice," she says. "We keep talking about equality, but equality has to include everyone, not just the majority gender."

Activist Manohar Elavarthi, founder of Sangama, has seen this silence harden over decades. "We've documented so many cases where trans persons were sexually abused by cis men," he says. "But the police laugh... The fear of being ridiculed is greater than the fear of not getting justice. At least silence doesn't make you a spectacle."

And for people like Adil, that exclusion isn't just structural — it's personal. "I stopped waiting for justice, I just want the world to accept what happened, even if it is too late to care," he says. "Everyone tells you to move on, but how do you move on from something the world says never happened?"

The law, then and now

India's rape law has its roots in colonial-era IPC Section 375, which strictly defines rape as a crime against women, excluding male and transgender survivors. The recently enacted Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) retains this gender-specific framing in Section 63, denying recognition to many survivors outside cisgender women. Lawyers and activists say this entrenched bias deepens invisibility and widens legal gaps, pushing survivors outside the legal protection framework and limiting justice.

What is the redressal?

Survivors who do not qualify under the narrow legal definition of rape can file complaints under sections related to "Grievous hurt" (BNS Section 116), "Criminal force" (BNS Section 129), and "Assault" (BNS Section 130). These laws provide for criminal charges and penalties, though often lighter than rape. Survivors can also pursue compensation claims under Section 198 and 396 or Bharatiya Nyaya Suraksha Sanhita. While these avenues do not address sexual violence, they offer some pathways to justice and protection from further harm.

HELPLINES

Naz foundation: **8800329176**
Dhwani crisis: **18001027282**
Sangama: **9639630202**

Feedback from our readers

It is always a pleasure to hear what our readers think of the articles we publish. Here's a selection of responses we have received in recent weeks. *(The responses have been edited for brevity and clarity).* Mail your responses to **dhonsunday@deccanherald.co.in**

This is about the article, **Therapies That Spell Good News (Wellness/Oct 26).** This was a very easy-to-read and informative article. I had, in fact, not heard of some of these advances in foetal care. Thanks for covering this topic.

Dr Jayanthi, USA

Wellness
Therapies that spell good news

The article **Grace For The Grey (Big Picture/Nov 16)** is heart-touching and brings to focus an important problem. I had a call from Davangere from a group of doctors who, after reading the article, wanted to start an initiative for the elderly.

Dr Prof Vishal U S Rao,
Dean and Group Director, HCG

Sometimes, portraits speak better than words. I refer to the accompanying illustration for the article, **Grace For The Grey (Big Picture/Nov 16).** The symbolic representation of the old age of a person is expressed in a meaningful way. My sincere appreciation.

Prof M S Raghunath

Grace for the grey

The article **Grace For The Grey (Big Picture/Nov 16)** has touched on a sensitive topic relating to the ever-growing greying community, which often finds itself at the crossroads as age catches on and the dependence on others rises. Longevity can either be a boon or a curse, and it largely depends on your health condition and the state of your finances. Always stand up for your rights, and if the younger generation no longer needs you around, don't despair, for your life is your own and you can lead it the way you choose to.

Aravind C V

The article **Grace For The Grey (Big Picture/Nov 16)** is the need of the hour! With improved health care, many elders can be productive members of society if we give them a level playing field. Keep publishing more such articles.

Dr Ali Khwaja

The article **Grace For The Grey (Big Picture/Nov 16)** is timely and succinct amid the increase in the population of the elderly. With life expectancy rising from 72 years in 2023 to a projected 83 by 2080, safeguarding the dignity of seniors is paramount. Many elderly, especially those living alone and not digitally savvy, remain vulnerable to scams, abuse and neglect. Conditions like dementia and Alzheimer's further heighten their need for protection.

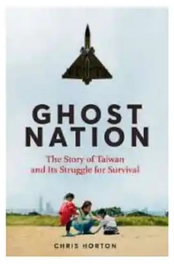
P V Prakash, Mumbai

ASTROSPEAK
Guruji Shrii Arnav
Scan the QR code to read the ***weekly horoscope***

Horton challenges China's assertions on Taiwan, exposing its longer history, making this book vital for grasping today's evolving geopolitics, writes Gunjan Singh

Beyond BEIJING'S framing

The author underscores how Taiwan has been repeatedly shaped and constrained by forces beyond its control. Seen here is a view of Kaohsiung, a large port city in southern Taiwan.



GHOST NATION
Chris Horton
Macmillan,
pp 336, Rs 899

Ghost Nation by Chris Horton sets out to dismantle the persistent narrative that Taiwan is naturally and historically a part of China. The book takes direct aim at Beijing's claim that Taiwan is merely a small island off the Chinese coast and a renegade province awaiting "reunification."

Horton argues that Taiwan's history did not begin with the Republic of China's retreat to the island in 1949. Instead, he highlights a long-standing and distinct society, economy, political culture and historical trajectory that predate the ROC's arrival. As he puts it, "The story of Taiwan begins with its Indigenous people, who, as the island's original stewards, are also living refutations of the CCP's irredentist claims on the island country." For Horton, the essential fact is that Taiwan was never fully governed by China; therefore, Beijing's reunification rhetoric is not only weak but also expansionist.

Xi Jinping's repeated insistence on reunification "at any cost" offers Taiwanese citizens a troubling preview of the future. Xi's linking of the China Dream and the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation to the goal of unification further complicates the present political landscape. As Horton observes, "Whether from first-hand experience or through stories told by elder relatives, the Taiwanese see echoes of their recent dark past in Xi Jinping's modern China." This sense of déjà vu shapes how contemporary Taiwanese society interprets Beijing's ambitions.

After nearly forty years of martial law, Taiwan's transition to democratisation in 1996 fundamentally reshaped the island's identity. The end of authoritarian rule encouraged a renewed engagement with Taiwan's own history and the emergence of a distinctly Taiwanese consciousness. Today, Taiwan functions as a vibrant democracy with a free press and an active civil society. Yet echoes of older Chinese claims persist, particularly within the Kuomintang (KMT), which continues to favour maintaining the status quo. Horton argues that "The Chiangs' unwillingness to abandon their China dream helped trap Taiwan in the diplomatic limbo which it inhabits to this day." By contrast, the rise of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) has strengthened calls for greater autonomy and resistance to the 1992 Consensus, challenging long-standing geopolitical assumptions.

This political shift has been accompanied by increased Chinese aggression and sharper threats of military coercion. Xi Jinping has gone as far as calling Taiwan a "sacred territory," heightening the sense of urgency. Against the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine war, the stakes feel even higher. Horton notes that any attempted invasion of Taiwan "would be the largest attempted amphibious invasion in human history." Though Taiwan is militarily smaller, "geography is very much on the side of the planners in Taipei," offering natural defensive advantages. Still, Beijing's narrative remains unchanged: "Taiwan is ours and Taiwanese people do not exist." This messaging reflects a larger effort to erase Taiwanese identity entirely.

Horton also underscores how Taiwan has been repeatedly shaped and constrained by geopolitical forces. The United States has played an instrumental role in defining Taiwan's trajectory, though its policy remains deliberately ambiguous. As Horton writes, "The US's current-day Taiwan policy is a patchwork of very careful language spread across one federal law, three communiques with China and a once-classified set of six assurances to Taiwan made by President Ronald Reagan." Yet, as China's economic power has grown, more countries have chosen to align themselves with Beijing's interpretation of the One-China policy.

Horton emphasises that "Taiwan's international status has consistently been under attack as governments, corporations and individuals erase Taiwan's sovereignty and its people to stay in Beijing's good graces." This erosion has led to a steady decline in the number of states maintaining formal diplomatic ties with Taipei. One of the book's most striking insights emerges from a conversation with a Taiwanese diplomat, who asks, "If nobody recognises the ROC any more, does it just become Taiwan?" The question underscores Horton's central argument: Taiwan and the ROC are not identical entities, and Taiwan's history predates the ROC.

Horton's approach to the "Taiwan question" is both nuanced and engaging. Drawing on interviews, personal experience and archival research, he layers individual stories with broader geopolitical developments to create a textured understanding of the island's predicament.

The title Ghost Nation captures the central tension: Taiwan possesses all the attributes of nationhood — its own history, culture, politics and society — yet it is rendered spectral by international hesitation and Beijing's insistence on rewriting its past. The world's sudden recognition of Taiwan's importance during the 2021 pandemic and the global chip supply chain breakdown only reinforce how much the international community depends on Taiwan's continued sovereignty. As Horton argues, "For countries whose stability and prosperity depend on Taiwan's continued sovereignty, it is vital for policymakers, journalists and voters to be able to differentiate between the truth and lies about Taiwan." Understanding Taiwan on its own terms, rather than through Beijing's framing, is essential.

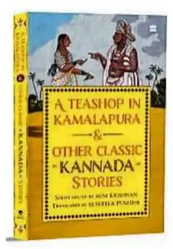
Ghost Nation is not just timely; it is necessary. It adds depth to the existing literature on Taiwan and offers a clear, compelling account of the island's struggle for recognition. The book provides a fresh lens through which to understand Taiwan's plight and is essential reading for anyone seeking to grasp the real Taiwan — beyond its geopolitical label.

The many maps of cultural memories

This is a sweeping anthology of classic Kannada stories that trace literary evolution, social change, and human complexities across decades, writes Uma Mahadevan Dasgupta

A Teashop in Kamalapura and Other Classic Kannada Stories is a collection of 18 landmark Kannada short stories published over 85 years — from the beginning of the 20th century to the 1980s — in English translation. The anthology offers a panoramic view of evolving Kannada literary traditions during this period. The editor of the series is Mini Krishnan, who has been a longtime advocate of Indian literature in translation. In her insightful introduction, she frames these stories as part of cultural memory: "Translation is a deep reading of a text. Every story or poem has a voice."

Susheela Punitha is known for her translations of several Kannada literary works, including the notable *Asprushyaru* by Vaidehi (2012) and *Dweepa* by Na D'Souza (2013). Her translation of UR Ananthamurthy's *Bharatipura* won a Sahitya Akademi award. In a delightful detail connecting the present and the past, she shares in her translator's note that her late husband's great-grandfather, Rev David Punitha, was a member of Rev Kittel's Committee that compiled a Kannada-English dictionary in 1894.

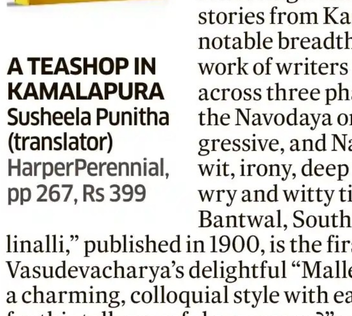


A TEASHOP IN KAMALAPURA
Susheela Punitha (translator)
HarperPerennial,
pp 267, Rs 399

Punitha's translations are sensitive and faithful renderings. She has taken efforts to source these stories from Kannada magazines and journals. With notable breadth, this anthology brings together the work of writers from north and south Karnataka, across three phases of modern Kannada writing: the Navodaya or Renaissance, Pragatishila or Progressive, and Navya or New Age. The stories contain wit, irony, deep feeling, and social commentary. The wry and witty title story by Panje Mangesharaya of Bantwal, South Karnataka, "Kamalapurada Hotlinalli," published in 1900, is the first in the Navodaya tradition. Kerura Vasudevacharya's delightful "Malleshi's Sweethearts" (1912) is written in a charming, colloquial style with earthy humour: "Did you have eyes only for this tall, graceful sugarcane?" says a woman character to a young girl. Ajampura Sitaram (Ananda) and Nanjanaguru Thirumalamba add darker notes, asking readers to introspect about injustice and violence. "The Master's Satyanarayana" by Koradkal Srinivasrao (1938) is an unsparing protest against the exploitation of landless labourers. Its spare sentences take us into the austere heart of poverty: "These children had only seen bunches of bananas hung in shops at fairs. They had never eaten any."

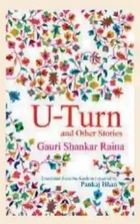
The stories cover a vast social and emotional terrain. In The Story of Jogi Anjappa's Hen (1945-55), Masti Venkatesha Iyengar uses light humour and irony to question notions of law and justice. "Rangappa had received an order recently, appointing him as the Bench Magistrate in our taluk. Everyone in our village was very happy, since our Shanbhag now had the authority to punish. The power to punish is considered a great prestige among our villagers. They feel that such a person should be equal to, at least, a subedar."

In the final story, Sara Aboobacker's searing "Between Rules and Regulations" (1985), we see a young girl who once worked as a maid, enduring her mistress's beatings, just to earn two sovereigns of gold. Her mother explains, with painful reasoning, why she cannot leave the job: "Who'll marry you if you don't have at least some ear-studs with jhumkis dangling from them?" Finally, to pay for the daughter's wedding, the older woman pawns her 14-year-old son as a bonded labourer.

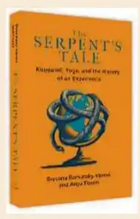


Other writers — Kodagina Gowramma, H V Savithramma, Shamaladevi Belgaunkar, Saraswathibai Rajawade, and Triveni (Anasuya Shankar) — underscore women's growing presence in literature. As you close the book, you begin to understand why, in her introductory note, Mini Krishnan frames the collection as a reflection on memory, empathy, and moral consciousness. This rich anthology is valuable not only for the narratives themselves, but also for the landscape they cover as they interact with identity, modernity, and social change.

BOOKRACK

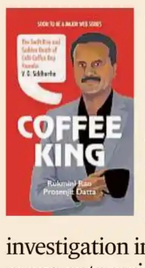


U-TURN
Gauri Shankar Raina
Niyogi, pp 184, Rs 495
This collection of stories unravels the lives of Kashmiri-speaking people, set against the socio-cultural backdrop of the land. Some stories reflect the deteriorating environment of the valley and the plight of the minority community.

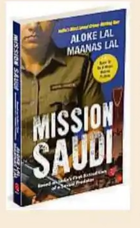


THE SERPENT'S TALE
Sravana Borkataky-Varma, Anya Foxen
CUP, pp 296, Rs 599
This book traces the intricate global histories of Kundalini, from its Sanskrit origins to its popularity in the West. It explores its symbolic link with the serpent and its fraught connections to sexuality.

THE COURTESAN, HER LOVER AND I
Tarana Husain Khan
Hachette, pp 336, Rs 699
In the royal courts of 19th-century Rampur, courtesan–poet Munni Bai Hijab captivates the legendary Urdu poet Dagh Dehlvi. More than a century later, Rukmini, an aspiring writer, stumbles upon Dagh's letters...



COFFEE KING
Rukmini Rao and Prosenjit Datta
Macmillan, pp 296, Rs 699
Through scrupulous reporting and extensive research, the authors undertake an investigation into how Siddhartha's mega enterprise began its inexorable descent into collapse.



MISSION SAUDI
Aloke Lal & Maanas Lal
Rupa, pp 184, Rs 295
This is the gripping true story of India's first-ever extradition of a sexual predator from Saudi Arabia. This landmark case tested the limits of international law, diplomacy and courage.

INTERVIEW

'Politics draws lines, stories erase them'

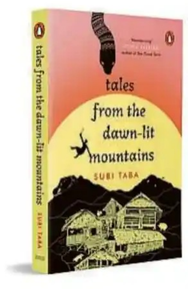
In a chat with Ashutosh Kumar Thakur, author Subi Taba from Arunachal Pradesh talks about myth, memory, land and what it means to listen to mountains

Subi Taba

Some books seep into us like mist over a ridge at dawn, quiet, steady, and unforgettable. Subi Taba's debut, Tales from the Dawn-Lit Mountains, is one such book from Arunachal Pradesh that is making waves. *Excerpts from an interview*

Your stories let the land speak. Do you see yourself as its translator?
When I think of a story or any story in my mind, it starts with land, because the land is the primary realm where every story originates and is the constant backdrop of everyday life. I like playing with the imagery of geography. Sometimes the land speaks through people too — through the old woman grinding pumpkin seeds, or a shaman chanting beside the fireplace, and I try to record that listening.

Does working with soil and seeds shape how you write myths and memories?
Perhaps, because agriculture is an exhaustive field that encompasses many aspects of land, people and society. And in my stories, the setting is mostly rural villages, and agriculture is a very integral part of the culture that I grew up watching. All our myths and memories are intertwined with various facets of nature, community, and survival.



Serpents, curses, transformations, do you ever feel the need to explain them to outsiders?
Sometimes, yes, to bridge cultural gaps. But I don't feel the need to reduce or rationalise them. These stories are not meant to be decoded like puzzles; they are meant to be understood within a cultural context. They carry the sensibilities and ethos of people who have lived in close relationship with their environment for centuries. In sharing these tales, I invite readers not just to interpret them, but to experience a worldview where serpents speak, curses carry weight, and transformations reveal deeper truths.

What does land mean to you, as a writer and as someone who works with it daily?
Land is a part of our ancestry. Every ridge holds a story; every river has a lineage. For me, land is both home and text — something you cultivate and read.

Working with it daily, I realise how alive it is, how watchful. Writing from the land is an act of gratitude and accountability.

In your book, forests and rivers feel like moral agents. Do you write them as characters in themselves?
I did not set out to write them as characters initially, but eventually they carved out a niche for themselves.

A priest preserving rituals amid fading traditions, do you see folklore as resistance?
Yes, folklore can be used as a resistance. Folklore is quiet resistance. It resists forgetting. In a world eager to rename and reclassify everything, oral traditions insist on remembering differently — through rhythm, repetition, and community. The priest in my story isn't nostalgic; he's safeguarding imagination itself. To remember in our own words is an act of defiance.

How do you reimagine women's roles in myths that often silence them?
By returning them to the centre. Many myths were reshaped over time by male narrators, yet in their origins, women were the keepers of lore, the storytellers around hearths. I reimagine them not as passive symbols but as witnesses, healers, transgressors. Myths can evolve, just like rivers change course. Writing is my way of letting women reclaim the fire.

Do you think literature can remap Arunachal more truthfully than politics or borders?
Yes, because literature listens to what borders erase, the songs that travel across them, the languages that refuse to die. Politics draws lines; stories dissolve them. A folktale told in a Tagin village can echo in a Monpa monastery or a Mishmi field. That fluidity is our truest map.

Silence is strong in your prose. Do you think silence has its own grammar?
Yes, silence punctuates meaning. In our oral traditions, pauses carry weight; they let memory breathe. Silence can hold mourning, reverence, or resistance. In my writing, I try to make silence visible — as a kind of syntax the land understands better than words.

If one image or sound from your book must stay with readers, which would you choose?
The image of the Puroik woman enslaved with a lappa in a small hut in the distant Puroik mountains, who is in a half-dream, half-prayer, half-hope. I hope that when she wakes up, she will find the courage to walk out of that life.

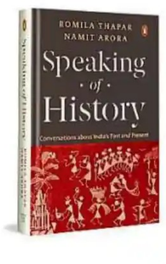
READ OF THE WEEK

Speaking of History brings India's past into sharp, urgent focus. In these wide-ranging conversations, Romila Thapar, the distinguished historian, joins Namit Arora, incisive writer and social critic, to explore how history is written, remembered and fought over.

Together, they pull back the curtain on the historian's craft: how evidence is weighed, how interpretations are made, and why the past has become a battleground of politics and identity. From caste and gender to religion, mythology and nationalism, they revisit much contested terrain and ask the vital questions what can we really know about our past, and why does it matter so much today?

The result is both erudite and refreshingly accessible: a book that challenges distortion and mythmaking, while celebrating history as an act of curiosity, argument and critical inquiry. At a time when the discipline is under siege, Speaking of History is both a defence of rigorous scholarship and a lively reminder that to engage with history in all its complexity is to undertake a profound journey; an inquiry not just into the past, but into ourselves.

Romila Thapar is an emeritus professor of history at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Namit Arora is a writer, social critic and the author of three books.



Live to eat in NEW ORLEANS

The city is a melting pot of cultures and cuisines. Sonia Nazareth gives you a taste of the dishes that define NOLA, as it's called, from Po' Boy sandwiches to the Bananas Foster

New Orleans, an undisputed culinary capital in the United States, is where people discuss what they're going to have for breakfast, before dinner is even over. Inspired by the bounty of the Bayou, the Gulf of Mexico and the diverse cultures that have called the city 'home' for 300 years, the city is defined by the evolution of its Creole kitchen, a style of cooking that's more than the sum of its varied parts.

French settlers harvested the local landscape and adapted their cooking tastes and skills, to the new ingredients. Choctaw Indians shared their knowledge of gathering and cooking local plants. Saffron and peppers were introduced by the Spanish.

Enslaved Africans brought in their own cooking methods, techniques and tastes. Cajun cooks introduced rustic French country preparation techniques (sauté, smoke, grill), and applied them to local farm, gulf or swamp produce.

Later, the city's palate expanded to include specialties from Vietnam, Korea, Mexico and Central America. Despite the popularity of nouveau NOLA cuisine, traditional recipes continue to have a following.

Bananas Foster, the dessert that originated in New Orleans. (PHOTO BY AUTHOR)

Beignet bites

As soon as I land in the city, I head to one of its famed cafés offering the beignet. The official doughnut of Louisiana, it was introduced by the French Acadians in the 18th century, and is best consumed hot, fresh, robustly puffy, cooked to a golden brown and liberally dusted with powdered sugar.

A grilled shrimp Po' Boy sandwich.

Seafood rules

Just as New Orleans is a fusion of global cultures, so too is the gumbo. However, in a city given to experimentation, there are always playful variations afoot. I try gumbo with alligator sausage. Much of Creole cuisine, I learn, is founded in seafood. The oysters from the Louisiana waters are considered to be the most sumptuous. Oysters Rockefeller, a dish of Oysters on the half-shell, topped with a sauce of butter, herbs and breadcrumbs, is playfully claimed to be as "rich" as Rockefeller himself.

Po' boy sandwiches

The stories behind the dishes are as fascinating as the foods themselves. In 1928, the Po' Boy sandwich, originally called the "Poor Boy" was created by the Martin brothers (restaurant owners) to sustain striking streetcar workers. Today this portable meal is French bread stuffed with fillings (like fried shrimp and oysters). Your server will want to know if you want your Po' Boy dressed – say yes, for a Po' Boy layered with tomato, shredded lettuce, mayo and pickles, adding to its scrumptiousness.

Beignet, done that! The official doughnut of the city.

Italian touch

Another city original is the muffuletta. Italian by birth and yet without counterpart in Italy, this sandwich is layered with selections from the local Sicilian deli — salami, ham, mortadella and sliced provolone cheese. With every bite I think of the massive Sicilian immigration here in the late 19th century and the ingredients they brought in.

Muffuletta, a sandwich that comes with a Sicilian touch.

Bananas Foster

As the late restaurateur Ella Brennan, who created the Bananas Foster (a dessert made of banana and vanilla ice-cream with a sauce blended from butter, brown sugar, cinnamon, dark rum and banana liqueur) remarked, "In New Orleans we live to eat!" This appetite for life, dining and community is so passionate, there's even a festival to celebrate the crawfish (freshwater crustaceans, similar to lobsters). At a neighbourhood Crawfish Boil, friends and neighbours are warmly welcomed.

Regarding dessert, no matter which flavour you crave, the city has a praline (the nuttier cousin of fudge and a signature sweet here) to satisfy you.

But to merely eat my way around a city, which arguably invented the cocktail, feels amiss. And so, I head to the Sazerac House. This immersive museum explores the history of the Sazerac cocktail and the spirited culture of the city. It reveals that while the Sazerac cocktail evolved over time, its ingredients mirror New Orleans, in which it was born. The sugar and lemon come from local crops. The Herbsaint is a reminder of French absinthe. The rye whiskey is all American. The bitters are a potent blend. Worthy of a dissertation are the classic cocktails invented in this city. The Ramon Gin Fizz, Café Brulot, Vieux Carre and the Hurricane are guaranteed to give you a good night and a late morning. New Orleans makes it easy to believe in spirits.

Louisiana's famed dish, gumbo, is as mysterious as it is accessible. Kiran Mehta tries her hand at cooking this flavourful staple

A gumbo of cultures

"Is it a soup or a stew?" I ask Jim, my co-passenger, on my flight into New Orleans, the most populous city of Louisiana, USA. The simple question leaves him thinking. "I'm not sure," he admits. Jim isn't the only one who can't agree on what the dish actually is. There are heated Reddit threads and online polls dedicated to this, and the jury is still out. "You can't define it. You just got-

ORIGIN STORY

ta taste it," says another local I meet during the Mardi Gras celebrations. Dressed as Venus, the Roman goddess of love, she makes gumbo sound like an emotion — much like love, but the kind that won't elude you!

In fact, gumbo is on the menu at many restaurants across New Orleans. But if you're looking for more than just a hearty meal, head to the Mardi Gras School of Cooking, where you can learn how to make it. Chef Mark Falgoust teaches us how to make gumbo with a twist: instead of the usual meats and seafood, we're dishing out a vegetarian gumbo. "It's pretty simple to make," assures the chef, as some of our class admit to being not-so-great cooks. We start by chopping up onions, green bell peppers, and celery — a trio seen in Cajun and Creole dishes.

All-in-one

Gumbo is a one-pot dish made with vegetables and herbs in this class. Traditionally, it would also contain meat or seafood. But its origin story isn't that simple. A range of people and cultures created the 'official dish of Louisiana', a state with a complex past of French and Spanish annexations. When the French settled here in the late 1600s, Native Americans were already living in Louisiana. Over time, the state became home to French, Spanish, African (largely West African), people of Canadian, Latin American, Anglo, and German descent. Louisiana State Museums highlight that by the 18th century, along with Native Americans, immigrants brought their own spices and recipes, contributing to the famous 'gumbo' of cultures.

Back to the gumbo making — it's now time to make the roux. The French influence is evident in the roux, a mixture of flour and fat, which serves as a thickening agent. With the addition of butter, an uplifting aroma fills the air, reminding me of biscuit dough.

Okra as a thickener

Many gumbo recipes also call for okra as a thickener, reflecting the African influence. The word "okra" itself comes from the Igbo language of Nigeria. Historical accounts trace gumbo to Africa. In West Africa's Bambara language, "gombo" means okra. Other origin stories link it to the Bantu languages of Central Africa, where okra was known as "ki ngombo" or "quingombo" in Kimbundu.

Next, we throw in the vegetables and seasonings. Some versions, influenced by Creole cooking, also add tomatoes to the pot.

A plate of gumbo, the iconic one-pot meal. PIC COURTESY: LOUISIANA OFFICE OF TOURISM

The seasonings are mostly Cajun, with pre-mixes available in supermarkets. You could make your own with combinations of paprika, thyme, oregano, ground black pepper, and garlic powder.

There are recipes that use filé powder, which Chef Falgoust calls the 'magic' ingredient. It's known to bring depth without adding bite. The green-coloured powder is made from dried and ground sassafras, attributed to the indigenous Choctaw people.

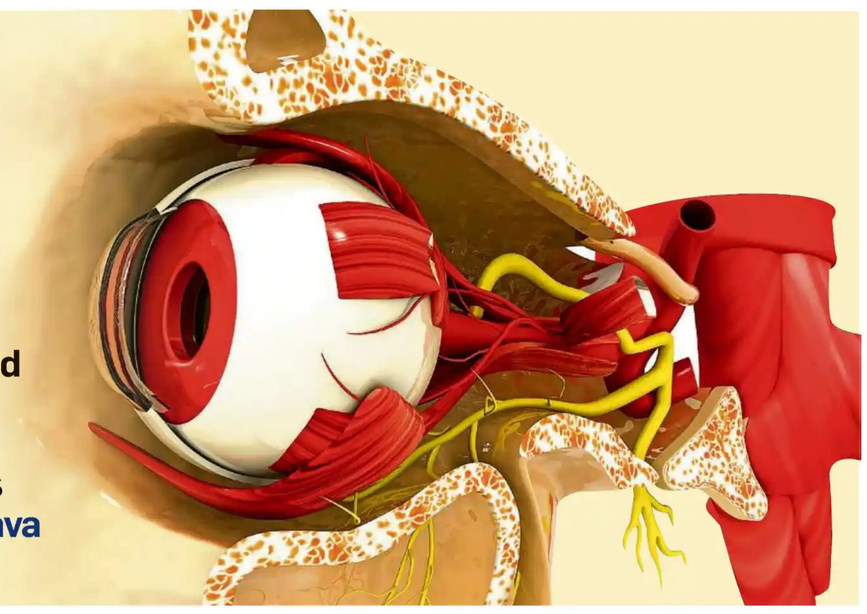
I dig into gumbo, complete with a dollop of rice, and it seems somewhat familiar to my palate, thanks to our curries. It has the same comfort factor as dal-chawal, with zest and punchy flavours from the Cajun seasoning. It reminds me of the flavour that achar adds to my khichdi bowl. That said, there is no documented desi link to the dish.

(**Origin Story** *attempts to satiate your curiosity about the history of a certain ingredient or dish.*)

Wellness

SILENT THIEF OF SIGHT

Glaucoma is one of the leading causes of blindness, and symptoms can often be unnoticeable. Early testing and detection are vital to prevent damage, writes Nishtha Bhargava



Diseases of the eye can steal more than sight. Without good eyesight, the world literally becomes duller and less enjoyable. Our vision guides all our action — studying, working, movement, and practically everything humans do. One can live with most vision impairments; put on a pair of glasses (or contact lenses) and your eyesight is back to normal. For extreme cases of imperfect eyesight, LASIK surgery is an option. Someone developing a cataract with age could get it operated on and regain normal eyesight. But there is one disease that causes irreversible blindness, without the patient realising — glaucoma.

One of the leading causes of blindness in India and worldwide, glaucoma is rightly called the silent thief of sight, because it develops slowly, symptoms remaining highly unnoticeable, until the disease has progressed to some vision loss.

Understanding the human eye

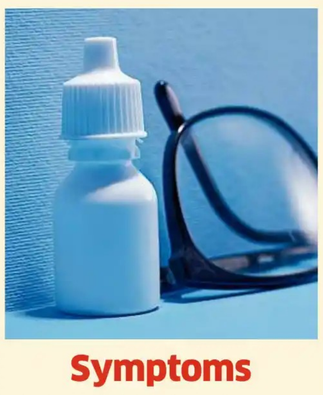
The front of our eyes is nourished and protected by a fluid (aqueous humor), which is constantly generated anew and flown in and out of the eye through a drainage system, made of tubes and angles. The light entering our eyes activates the big bunch of tiny nerves at the back of our eyeballs (the optic nerve) which in turn sends the signal to the brain, forming an image of the things in our view, helping us see.

What is glaucoma?

Glaucoma is an eye disease in which the optic nerve gets damaged. Blind spots are created in patients' field of vision as nerves begin to die. This typically causes 'tunnel vision', or loss of sight from the periphery of the field of vision. As the disease progresses, the field of vision becomes narrower, leading to complete blindness, if left untreated.

Glaucoma is caused by a rise in fluid pressure inside the eye (IOP or intraocular pressure) that damages the optic nerve.

Diabetes, hypertension, eye injury and age can lead to increased IOP. Importantly, there are genetic factors that could put a person at risk of glaucoma even at a young age.



Symptoms

The loss of vision from the periphery is what brings the patient to the clinic. In the beginning, this loss of vision goes unnoticed and there is rarely any pain in the eye. Tunnel vision is the telling sign.

Problems such as blurry vision, eye pain, headaches and other vision problems should be examined without delay.

Types of glaucoma

Depending on the reason for increase in the pressure inside the eye, glaucoma is categorised as:

Primary open angle glaucoma: The most common form of glaucoma, in this case, the eye's drainage canals get clogged, obstructing fluid flow and building up pressure inside the eye.

Primary angle closure glaucoma: In this, the angle in most areas between the iris and cornea gets closed, thus reducing the drainage of the fluid, building up IOP. Angle closure glaucoma may set in with symptoms like severe pain in the eye or forehead, headache, redness, and nausea.

Normal tension glaucoma: In several cases, the IOP may be within normal range, but the patient might develop blind spots in their vision.

Secondary glaucoma: Certain diseases like diabetes, hypertension, or migraine may lead to glaucoma too. Long-term use of steroid medications and refractive errors are risk factors.

Congenital and juvenile forms of glaucoma are also known with children born with the disease or developing it at an early age.

Prevention and treatment

The value of early testing and detection in the prevention of glaucoma cannot be overemphasised. Getting an eye checkup done regularly is the only way to prevent glaucoma, because the eye doctor would assess peripheral vision, IOP (tonometry), optic nerve health (ophthalmoscopy and optical coherence tomography), drainage angle (gonioscopy), and any visual impairments to determine the health of the patients' eyes, catching symptoms early on. There is no single confirmatory test for glaucoma; the diagnosis is based on the combined results. If glaucoma runs in your family, a genetic test could reveal the severity and onset age of the disease. Genetic tests help get you an early risk assessment and diagnosis, informing your family planning decisions and giving doctors a chance to design more effective treatment regimens.

Treating glaucoma means preventing the damage from spreading further than it already is. Vision that is already lost cannot be restored. It is importat that blurry vision, eye pain, headaches and other vision problems be examined without delay. Eye drops and laser surgeries are the first line of treatment to bring IOP within normal range. When these fail, a surgical solution such as trabeculectomy is employed.

Since glaucoma is a lifelong condition, prescribed eye drops need to be taken daily forever. So, prevention is the only real 'cure'.

(The author is a science communicator and life science researcher.)

The long and short of myopia care

DR ROHIT SREENATH

Myopia, or short-sightedness, is rising sharply among children across the world. Once seen as a simple refractive error easily corrected with glasses, it is now recognised as a public-health concern. High myopia increases the lifetime risk of conditions such as retinal detachment, glaucoma, and myopic macular degeneration. Early detection and preventive care can make a lasting difference.

Spending extended hours indoors or staring at screens can lead to myopia.

Why myopia is rising

Myopia occurs when the eyeball grows slightly too long, causing distant objects to appear blurred. The global rise has been linked to lifestyle changes — children spending more hours indoors, less time in sunlight, and more time on digital devices. Excessive near work on phones, tablets, and computers encourages the eye to adapt to close focusing, which can accelerate myopic growth during the school years.

HEALTH IN THE HEADLINES

Follow the 20-20-20 rule

Research from recent studies published by the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) and Asia-Pacific Journal of Ophthalmology confirms that children with higher screen exposure develop myopia earlier and experience faster progression. Experts advise the 20-20-20 rule — every 20 minutes, look at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds. Encourage children to maintain good posture, adequate lighting, and to limit recreational screen use.

Power of sunlight

One of the simplest and most effective ways to protect young eyes is daily outdoor exposure. Studies endorsed by the AAO and the World Society of Paediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (an eye misaligment issue) show that at least 80 to 120 minutes of outdoor sunlight each day can significantly reduce the onset and progression of myopia. Natural daylight stimulates the release of dopamine in the retina, a chemical that slows abnormal eye growth. Schools and parents are now encouraged to include outdoor activities as part of daily routines.

Eat for healthy eyes

A balanced diet supports eye health at every age. Foods such as green leafy vegetables, oily fish, nuts, and eggs provide key nutrients — lutein, zeaxanthin, and omega-3 fatty acids — essential for retinal health and visual function. While diet alone cannot stop myopia, studies suggest that well-nourished children have better overall ocular resilience. Including these foods regularly is a simple step towards stronger, healthier eyes.

New options

Encouragingly, treatment options have advanced. For instance, the US FDA has recently authorised a new-generation spectacle lens for correcting vision and slowing myopia progression in children. Clinical trials show that consistent wear can slow worsening by nearly 70 per cent over two years. These lenses use a special optical design that controls peripheral light focus to reduce eye elongation. Alongside low-dose atropine drops, orthokeratology, and soft multifocal contact lenses, these lenses offer a safe, non-invasive choice for families seeking proactive management.

Seeing a clearer future

Myopia is not merely about needing glasses — it reflects how modern lifestyle influences eye development. By combining outdoor activity, healthy habits, balanced nutrition, and timely professional guidance, parents can help their children enjoy a lifetime of clear, comfortable vision.

(The author is a phaco refractive surgeon and practises at an eye care centre in Bengaluru.)

Shweta Dravid explores the city along the banks of the Godavari, known for its vibrant culture, ancient temples, and a thriving wine scene

Uncorking the spirit of Nashik

Nestled along the banks of the Godavari, Nashik is a city where the spiritual meets the sensual and where ancient legends flow as freely as the region's famed wines. Often overshadowed by its more famous neighbour, Mumbai, this city of many souls offers a unique blend of ancient history, vibrant culture, and a thriving wine scene beckoning travellers to uncork its diverse charm.

Nashik is a spiritual hub, boasting some of India's most revered religious sites, and is one of the four sites in India where the Maha Kumbh Mela, a huge Hindu pilgrimage, is held every 12 years, drawing millions of devotees to the sacred waters of the Godavari.

Trimbakeshwar temple

Located about 28 km from Nashik city is the Trimbakeshwar temple, one of the 12 Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva. The temple is a masterpiece carved from black stone. The current structure was constructed in the 18th century by Peshwa Balaji Baji Rao on the site of an older shrine, showcasing a blend of Maratha and Hemadpanthi architectural styles. Its most unique feature is the Jyotirlinga itself, which contains three small lingas representing the trimurti—Brahma, Vishnu, and Mahesh, making it the only Jyotirlinga to do so.

Pandavleni caves

Just a short drive from Nashik city lies the enigmatic Pandavleni caves. These ancient rock-cut caves, dating back to the 1st century BC, are a group of 24 Hinayana Buddhist caves. They were once home to monks who meditated and studied here, and you can still see the intricately carved chaityas (prayer halls), viharas (monasteries), and inscriptions in Pali.

Though primarily Buddhist, local lore beautifully weaves them into the story of the Mahabharata, suggesting that the Pandavas lived here during their exile, hence the name Pandavleni. The trek up to these caves is a relatively easy yet rewarding climb of approximately 30-40 minutes with well-laid steps that wind up the rocky hillside. As you ascend, you are treated to refreshing, panoramic views of Nashik city sprawling below.

Saptashrungi Devi temple

Perched majestically atop the Saptashrungi hill at Vani, near Nanduri village, approximately 60 kilometers from Nashik, stands the revered Saptashrungi Devi Temple. This significant pilgrimage site is one of the 51 Shakti Peethas dedicated to the fierce yet nurturing Goddess Saptashrungi Nivasini. Devotees are captivated by her imposing 10-foot idol, depicted with 18 arms, each holding a different weapon, symbolising her divine power.

The temple's name, 'Saptashrungi,' literally meaning "seven mountain peaks," perfectly describes its unique location amidst the towering peaks of the Sahyadri range. It's profoundly believed that the limbs of Mata Sati fell at this sacred spot, imbuing the site with immense spiritual energy and drawing countless pilgrims. The journey to the temple itself is scenic, passing through winding roads and verdant landscapes of the Sahyadri range. From the summit, the panoramic views of the surrounding hills and valleys are simply breathtaking, especially during monsoon.

The grape escape: Nashik's wine circuit

Nashik has rightfully earned its moniker 'Wine Capital of India,' boasting a thriving viticulture scene that attracts connoisseurs and curious travellers alike. A visit to Nashik is incomplete without a tour and tasting at its renowned vineyards.

Nashik is known as the wine capital of India.

The pioneer of Indian winemaking, Sula offers comprehensive tours, wine-tasting sessions, and a delightful restaurant with sweeping views. For those who wish to spend a night in this beautiful locale, there is also excellent accommodation.

Located in Sanjegaon, a scenic village near Nashik, Vallonne Vineyards is known for its French-style wines and offers a holistic and intimate wine experience. As India's first boutique winery, established in 2009, they focus on low-intervention winemaking.

Wine-tasting sessions are a highlight here, where you can sample five premium wines and learn about their characteristics. There's also a charming lake-facing restaurant, serving both Indian and continental cuisine, apart from a boutique vineyard hotel for those looking for an immersive experience.

With locations in both Nashik and Nandi Hills (near Bengaluru), Grover Zampa is one of India's oldest wine producers. Their Nashik vineyard, located a 40-minute drive from Nashik City in Sanjegaon, offers a prime wine experience with winemaking and tasting tours. It does not offer on-site accommodations, but the nearby town of Igatpuri has some beautiful lodging options for those wishing to extend their stay here.

The Trimbakeshwar Shiva temple at the foothills of the Western Ghats.

Offbeat outings

DEVLALI: A GLIMPSE INTO MILITARY LIFE

The military cantonment of Devlali, near Nashik, is an opportunity to witness military life from a distance. While direct access to the army base is restricted, the well-maintained cantonment area provides a serene environment. Devlali is also home to charming spots perfect for a picnic amidst windmills. Adding to Devlali's charm is Temple Hill, also known as Khandobachi Tekadi. This hill is home to an ancient Khandoba temple, reportedly over 500 years old, dedicated to an incarnation of Lord Shiva. Temple Hill is also known for its panoramic views of the surrounding landscape.

GARGOTI MINERAL MUSEUM

Prepare to be mesmerised at the Gargoti Mineral Museum, India's first and only museum dedicated to gems, minerals, and fossils. This world-class museum houses a breathtaking collection of natural crystals, zeolite minerals, and ancient fossils sourced from various parts of India and the globe. Each exhibit at the mueum is meticulously displayed, accompanied by informative descriptions, making it an educational and visually stunning experience.

Checklist

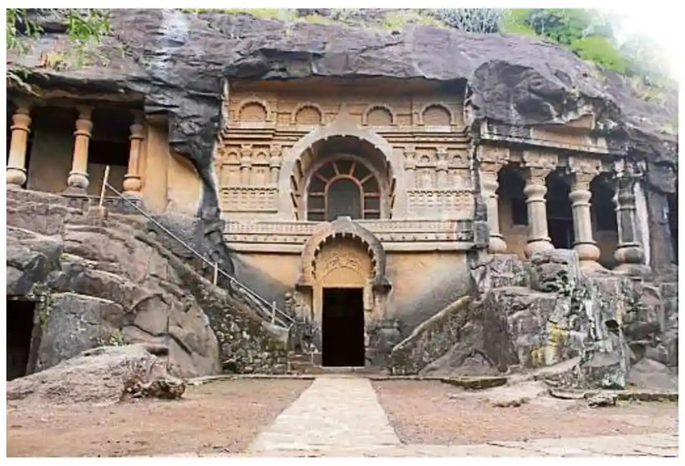
Best time to visit: October to March are ideal winter months when the weather is pleasant for treks, sightseeing and vineyard visits. For those who love the rains, the monsoon season (June – September) is magical, transforming the landscape into a lush green paradise.

How to reach

BY AIR: Ozar Airport (about 40 mins from the city centre)

BY RAIL: Nashik Road Railway Station (20 mins from the city centre)

BY ROAD: Mumbai (4 hours) and Pune (5 hours)



The facade of a vihara at Pandavleni caves.

Ramkund, situated on the banks of the Godavari, is one of the sites of the Kumbh Mela.

ADVERTORIAL

Advertorial

How were the Pyramids really built?

Neil Patil
Founder, COO & CTO
Veena World
neil@veenaworld.com

...For centuries, the construction of the Pyramids of Giza has puzzled historians and engineers alike. The ancient Egyptians left no records detailing the methods used to build these colossal structures...

Today, the Pyramids of Giza stand majestically on the outskirts of Cairo in Egypt. They are on everyone's travel bucket list and we have grown up watching a number of documentaries about these Pyramids on National Geographic and Discovery. These monumental structures built more than four and a half millennia ago, continue to captivate and mystify visitors from around the globe.

The Pyramids of Giza, comprising the Great Pyramid of Khufu, the Pyramid of Khafre, and the Pyramid of Menkaure, along with the enigmatic Sphinx, are not only the pinnacle of ancient Egyptian architectural achievement but also the last surviving members of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. So today, let's travel to the heart of Egypt's enduring legacy and delve into why these ancient structures have fascinated humanity for centuries. First, let's actually find out how they may have been built because the Pyramids of Giza have been the subject of countless studies, explorations, and debates, yet they continue to hold secrets that are yet to be uncovered.

Let's start with who built them and when. The Pyramids of Giza were constructed during Egypt's Fourth Dynasty in the Old Kingdom, a period of prosperity and artistic flourishing. The timeline places their construction roughly between 2580 and 2510 BCE. The most ancient and largest among them, the Great Pyramid of Khufu, is believed to have been completed around 2560 BCE. The Pyramid of Khafre followed it and then the Pyramid of Menkaure, each serving as an eternal resting place for the respective pharaohs after whom they are named.

For centuries, the construction of the Pyramids of Giza has puzzled historians and engineers alike. The ancient Egyptians left no records detailing the methods used to build these colossal structures, leading to a myriad of theories. The most widely accepted theory suggests that the pyramids were built using a system of ramps to transport the massive limestone blocks into place. Variations of this theory propose different configurations of the ramps, from straight ramps extending from the quarry to the construction site, to zigzagging or circular ramps that allowed workers to haul the stones upward with less effort. Recent discoveries, such as remnants of a workers' village and a system of waterways, suggest a highly organised labour force sourced from skilled workers and not slaves, as previously thought.

The Great Pyramid of Khufu stands as the largest in Giza, originally reaching a height of 146.6 meters (481 feet), though now slightly shorter due to the loss of its outer casing stones. It was constructed with an estimated 2.3 million blocks of stone, each weighing an average of 2.5 to 15 tons. The precision with which these blocks were cut and placed is one of the pyramid's most baffling aspects, with joints between stones being nearly imperceptible.

The Pyramid of Khafre, while slightly smaller than Khufu's, appears taller from certain angles due to its higher elevation on the plateau. It is distinguished by the remaining casing stones at its peak, giving a glimpse into how the original pyramids would have looked with their smooth, gleaming surfaces. The complex also includes the Great Sphinx, a colossal statue with the body of a lion and the head of Pharaoh Khafre, guarding the pyramid and serving as a symbol of royal power.

And the smallest of the three, the Pyramid of Menkaure, marks a departure in size but not in significance. It features three smaller queen's pyramids and a more complex mortuary temple, indicating evolving architectural styles and religious practices.

Along with the three Pyramids, the Sphinx stands as the oldest known monumental sculpture in Egypt. Carved from a single block of limestone, it is believed to represent the face of Pharaoh Khafre, serving as a guardian of the plateau and a symbol of royal authority.

Speaking of these pyramids, it is incredible to note that the layout of the pyramids was meticulously planned. The base of each pyramid was laid out in a perfect square, with each side oriented to face one of the cardinal points. This level of precision required an advanced understanding of geometry and the use of tools like the merkhet (an ancient Egyptian timekeeping instrument) and bay (a type of sighting tool) to achieve accurate alignment. Now that we have spoken of how they may have been built, let's look at a few reasons why they were built.

Royal Burials: The primary purpose of the pyramids was to house the remains of the pharaohs after their deaths. Pharaohs were believed to be divine rulers, and their tombs were constructed to ensure a safe journey to the afterlife. The pyramids contained burial chambers, sarcophagi, and various items and treasures that the pharaoh might need in the afterlife.

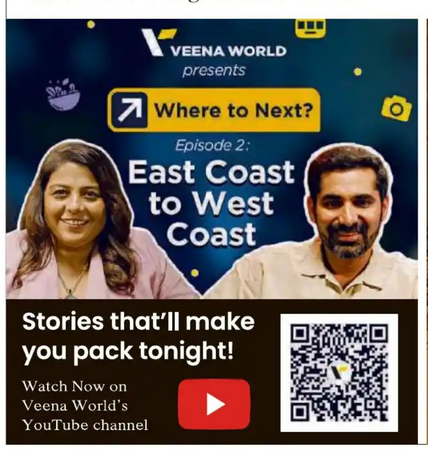
Spiritual and Religious Significance: The construction of pyramids was deeply rooted in the religious beliefs and cosmology of ancient Egypt. The pyramids symbolised the pharaoh's ascent to the heavens and their transformation into a God-like figure after death. The pyramid shape represented the rays of the sun, and the pharaoh's soul was believed to follow the sun god 'Ra' on its daily journey.

Political and Cultural Symbolism: Pyramids were not only functional structures but also symbols of the pharaoh's power, wealth, and prestige. Their construction showcased the ruler's ability to mobilise resources, labour, and engineering expertise. They were a tangible representation of the ruler's divine status and authority.

Social and Economic Role: The construction of pyramids required a vast labour force, including skilled architects, engineers, and labourers. These projects created employment opportunities and helped sustain the economy by fostering trade and agriculture.

Commemoration of Pharaohs: The pyramids also served as lasting monuments that commemorated the pharaohs and preserved their memory for eternity. Inscriptions and hieroglyphics inside the pyramids provided information about the pharaoh's achievements and lineage.

All in all, the construction process was surrounded by religious rituals and ceremonies, and the pyramid complexes included temples, causeways, and other structures for use in funerary rituals and offerings to the deceased pharaoh. Overall, the Egyptian pyramids were multifaceted structures that played a central role in ancient Egyptian culture, religion, and society, and even today, they continue to fascinate and intrigue people from around the world to this day.



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DAB HAND

Not a consumer? You can still support craft!

If craft is to remain relevant, not just as heritage but as a living ecosystem, we must rethink how we relate to it, writes Nisha Vikram

When we talk about supporting craft, the first thought that comes to mind is to buy more of it. More sarees, more pottery, more cushions, more block-printed whatever; consumption that comes disguised as culture. And yet, even the well-intentioned visitor to our annual craft fairs will tell you how much the price of handmade objects has risen. Pieces once made for local use now live only in Instagram reels of homes of the very rich.

So, in this scenario, how do we engage with craft? At its heart, craft is not the product — it is the process. It is generational wisdom made tangible: a lesson in history and geography, a relationship between skill and memory, form and function, a way of life, almost the genetic code of an artisan.

In pre-colonial India, craft was rarely about ornamentation, except perhaps for royal commissions. Mostly, it was about need. In a village fair in Bihar, you might buy a hand-carved thekua mould to use and treasure for decades; in Kerala, you'd replenish the cracked urli that cooks the meen curry; up in the mountains, a Patua shawl might be woven on custom order for a Kullvi bride who will cherish and wear it for all important occasions through her life; in Punjab, a Phulkari shawl might be painstakingly embroidered by the women of the family years before a girl's wedding. In all these examples, makers and users belonged to the same social fabric, and their work was essential to the rhythm of everyday life.

Today, that context has changed. The artisan often creates for someone far removed from their world, someone like you or me. Their work circulates in markets that prize scarcity, beauty, and prestige. And somewhere along the way, the relationship between maker and buyer has become purely transactional, sometimes even extractive.

But must it be?

Artworks on display at the exhibition in Bengaluru.

Reframing the relationship

Supporting craft doesn't always have to mean buying craft. While there are obvious measures — commissioning a repair instead of replacing something like mending a torn silk saree with an embroidery patch, or even buying better and buying less, there are other ways to create a bigger impact:

Visiting craft museums and immersive experience centres rather than just shopping. For example, the Kunj in Delhi is a major cultural-retail complex dedicated to Indian handicrafts and handlooms, designed to help visitors engage with the process and story, not just product. Closer to home, The Loom-Miraya Greens, an immersive textile experience centre in Bengaluru, lets visitors have a hands-on experience with weaving. Dhaatu, a puppet exhibition, showcases traditional puppets and puppetry performances from across India.

Studying crafts to develop a deeper understanding of them: Online resources like MAP Academy (with textile and craft history courses) and platforms like MeMeraki (which offer recorded craft masterclasses) make this possible from the comfort of your own home.

Attending workshops to understand a technique — not to master it, but to appreciate the labour and the potential that crafts hold.

This idea lies at the heart of Craft Forward, a month-long exploration I'm curating at Courtyard Koota, Bengaluru. The goal is to see craft as potential, not nostalgia. Highlights include Pattachitra-style satirical comic illustrations, dream-like contemporary Cheriyal mask installations, workshops on the math behind weaving, movement and Warli painting, and talks by people who have used crafts in fields like animation and conservation. The showstopper is a theatre performance by contemporary theatre professionals and traditional shadow puppeteers from Nimmalakunte village in Andhra Pradesh.

Each of these experiences invites the question: What happens when we move beyond buying and start participating? When we learn, question, and create alongside the maker?

Valuing artisans as teachers, thinkers, and innovators — not only as producers.

Can artisans be teachers? Can our children learn mathematics on the loom, or anatomy through puppetry? In the Koota exhibition at Craft Forward, crafts are shown in logo design, packaging, and animation, thereby demonstrating that craft need not exist in a silo, but be an equal participant in the modern world.

Living the contradiction

Of course, I don't have all the answers. At work, each project I work on surfaces this contradiction within me. Sometimes I justify the scale of a mural by its longevity. Sometimes I wonder: Are we innovating or simply consuming differently?

Over time, I have also come to realise that some of the most beautiful things are not meant to be owned. They are only meant to be admired, understood and respected. When we watch an artisan at work, when we listen to the rhythm of the loom or the hammering of a punch, we become witnesses, not consumers. We participate in a continuum that connects us to time, material, and imagination.

If craft is to remain relevant, not just as heritage but as a living ecosystem, we must rethink how we relate to it. Not as saviours or collectors, but as co-inhabitants of a shared world.

So maybe the question isn't what we can buy, but what we can learn, share, and keep alive.

The writer is the curator of the Craft Forward exhibition being held at Courtyard Koota, Bengaluru.

A rural artisan paints a clay pitcher vase at a handicraft fair in Kolkata.

A woman paints tribal fish motifs at a fairground in Kolkata.

A veteran stamps patterns in ink on a traditional textile in Jaipur.

POT-POURRI

Masks, myths and the many worlds in between

The Bihar Biennale merges global south-histories, performances and art forms, creating a lively platform for cultural solidarity and exchange, writes Kavita Kanan Chandra

A few of the exhibits on display at the Bihar Museum Biennale.
PICS COURTESY: BIHAR MUSEUM, AUTHOR

A smile, a scowl, a smirk, a steady stare — or no expression at all — as you wander among masks drawn from Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Demons and divine beings, sacred icons, ritual objects, and theatre props; masks that animate shamanic practices, mythic tales, and ceremonial traditions. From India's Chhau masks to Africa's animal forms, this ancient art continues to astonish and enthral.

"As unique, handcrafted objects, these masks embody aesthetic and symbolic values rooted in ancestral origins. They hold the essence of the distinctive cultures of the global south, bridging the past and the present," says Anjani Kumar Singh, Director General, Bihar Museum.

'Global South: Sharing Histories' is the theme of the third Bihar Biennale, gathering museums and cultural institutions across Asia, Latin America, and Africa. It stands apart for centring museums themselves, notes Deputy Director Ashok Kumar Sinha, rather than following the path of conventional art biennales.

Patna's Bihar Museum is earning global attention for its efforts to transform the museum into a lively, evolving space instead of a static archive of objects. Dr Alka Pande, the Academic Director and editor of the biennale, highlights the crucial shift from museums as neutral repositories to vibrant sites for cross-cultural engagement.

The Bihar Biennale nurtures solidarity across the Global South through scholarly exchanges, cultural conversations, and exhibitions shaped by shared histories of colonisation, migration, trade, and centuries of cultural interchange.

For art lovers, it offers a chance to experience ongoing displays of paintings, sculptures, pottery, photographs, and installations from the global south.

The striking logo of the third biennale, designed by artist Sachindra Nath Jha, weaves together the natural and cultural motifs of three continents: the African Baobab crowned with Asia's peepul leaves, its trunk adorned with the bold Otomi textile of South America, and textured with the traditional Peruvian lliclla. It draws visitors and artists alike — young Ethiopian artists pause eagerly for photos with it. Yet it is their contemporary art that truly casts its spell on the walls. Mihiretu Wassie works with colourful buttons and leather scraps to craft portraits in collage; her button portrait of Gandhi and a lion fashioned from leather fragments are particularly striking. Surafel Amare's mixed-media canvases layer texture, colour, and material to explore reality through the lens of personal experience.

Indonesia's exhibition and the dance performances that opened the biennale reveal how fully the Ramayana has been embraced in Indonesian art. Two millennia of shared history flow through maritime trade, temple architecture, Sanskrit traces in Bahasa, and the enduring epics of the Ramayana and Mahabharata.

The Ramayana's reach extends far beyond Indonesia, touching Southeast Asia and the Caribbean. The exhibition Vishwaroop Ram celebrates this global legacy. Malaysia's Ramayana Wayang Kulit (shadow theatre), Cambodia's Hanuman paintings, and Trinidad and Tobago's Ravana headgear for Ramleela are among the many Ramayana-inspired traditions featured from around 20 countries.

From Peru's pottery to Sri Lanka's oil paintings, the biennale spans art and culture from Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Argentina, Mexico, Ecuador, and more. Visitors encounter rich textiles, accessories, and replicas of Andean pottery and Inca ceramics, Pablo Katlirevsky's photographic journey through Argentina, and an exhibition exploring Ecuador's heritage as the cradle of cacao.

Three Indian institutions also present exhibitions. The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi, showcases artists reflecting on colonisation, resistance, and shared solidarity. The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and Rajasthan's Mehrangarh Fort Museum display miniature paintings depicting the divine manifestations of 'Shakti — the supreme Goddess'.

The Bihar Biennale is drawing artists, curators, scholars, cultural institutions, ambassadors, and art enthusiasts. Its mission to reshape collective understanding across the global south resonates strongly with visitors.

The Biennale continues until December 31, 2025, in Patna.

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Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com

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KANAKASHREE LAYOUT BDA Approved site 40x60 Corner 50 feet Road and 40feet Road Rs:15500/= Call:7349322223

Hoskote

"CONTACT FOR Selling/ Buying BMRDA Approved Sites Near Hoskote, Malur, ChikkaTirupathi Surroundings Areas. Call: 9845178335"

J P Nagar

4TH PHASE Dollers Colony 50X80 East Facing Excellent Location, Price 32000/- sft Settler: 9880225333/ 9845035333

Kempegowda Layout

NADAPRABHU KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT BDA SITES SELLING/ BUYING 20x30, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80. Genuine Buyers Call: 9632146784, 9731162167.

BDA SITE 40x60 E/F BDA 40ft Road Rs 8500/- Negotiable Nada Prabhu kempegowda Layout Near Metro Station 6366711598

AVAILABLE FOR RENT

On St. Marks Road (MANANDI PLAZA), 3000 sq.ft Fully furnished Brand New office space with 60 to 70 workstations, Cabins, Lounge Area, Terrace Cafeteria. Immediate occupation Contact Owner 98450 48332

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Contact: 6360605636 / 8431164733

KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT, Commercial/ Residential BDA Site for Sale 20x30, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80. Contact Kumar 9945119449

Nagarabhavi

"NAGARBHAVI/ VISHVESHWARAIAH / KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT 30x40,40x60 OR ANY MEASUREMENT SITES REQUIRED`& AVAILABLE PREFERABLY OWNER/`ALLOTTE SITES. 9845268611"

"MPM 40X60, Vishveshwaraiah 6th 50X80 80'feet Road, Railway 2nd Stage 40x60 East. 9448733456/ 7259675150"

BDA SITE 40X60 FOR SALE in Nagarbhavi, 10th Block 3rd cross South face Site no: 63 Contact: Muthu:- 9880780002

Nelamangala

SITE FOR SALE 70x40 measuring East facing corner site at M.S.Ramaiah Green City at Nelamangala, Near Railway Station. Contact: 9611946333

Vijayanagara

SITE FOR SALE: 60X90 WEST FACING WOC ROAD RPC LAYOUT ONLY GENUINE BUYERS: 6363250343/ 9845038343

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Sites

Vijayanagar

VIJAYNAGAR 40X60 West, 30x51 South, 35x51 North, 35x51 South, Vijaynagar Extn 30x40 House Duplex. 9448411596.

Vishweshwariah Layout

BUYING/ SELLING 20x30, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80 BDA Sites VISHVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT, KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT. Contact: 9035470616

BDA SITE SALE VISHWESHWARAIAH LAYOUT 2ND BLOCK 40X60 NORTH FACE NEAR 100FT ROAD GOOD LOCATION CONTACT: 8892901567

"VISVESHWARAIAH 1ST BLOCK 30x40 West facing Good location, opposite park, Genuine buyers only Contact: 9916140866"

BDA SITE SALE VISHWESHWARAIAH LAYOUT 6TH BLOCK 30X40 WEST NEAR OXFORD COLLEGE 40X60 NEAR KLE COLLEGE: 8892901567

DIRECT OWNER 40x60 N/F VISHVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT 2nd Block, close to 100ft Road. Contact: 9742681666, 9886634578

BDA SITE Sale 30x40 South Facing Rs 2Cr Negotiable Vishweshwaraiah Layout 8th Block Contact: 9611577666

"VISVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT 1st Block 40x60 East facing site for sale. "Anugraha"- 9886294610 (Brokers Excuse)"

30X40 E/F BDA Site Sale 40ft Road 6th Block Vishweshwaraiah Layout direct Owner meeting KLE Law College opp 100ft Road Back Side Contact Balaji: 8310003509

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BDA 40X60 Site E/F Vishweshwaraiah Layout 40ft Road Near KLE Law College Brokers Excuse: 9980409820

BDA SITE for Sale 30×40 East facing Builder Location Vishweshwaraiah Layout Near BDA Complex & 100 ft Ring Road Rs.13,500/- negotiable Contact: 8970306030

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INDEPENDENT 60'X40' BEL 2 Block Prime Location (Ready to move 4 BHK) 16000/- S/F: 9844264852

SALE SITE 1200 SQFT RS 8000 PSQFT EAST FACING CLEAR TITLES VACANT POSITION CALL 9035883017

Yelahanka

SITE FOR SALE 30X40 East Facing Site for Sale at BDA approved layout BDA 'A" Khatha at Yelahanka. Price 13,500 per sft, negotiable. Genuine buyers can contact 9611946333

House

Jayanagar

SALE 40X60 Jayanagar 5th Block With 3BHK Ground Floor & 3BHK 1st Floor Excellent Location Ct: 9844134068

J P Nagar

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HOUSE FOR sale 30X45 at RHCS Layout Nagarbhavi Rate 1.95 CR Contact: 9108133156/ 9845896099

Vidyaranyapura

4-STORY HOUSE FOR SALE in Ramchandrapura, Jalahalli (Post) Bangalore 13. Size: 20X30. Built area 2700 Sqft: 1,75,00,000/- 9880450523.

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Bannerghatta Road

BANNERGHATTA ROAD, Kodichikkana Halli, Abbiyappa Layout 20x34, East, A/E-Katha, unfinished 2 unit House 1,40,00,000/- 9739995042

Flat

Banashankari

RERA No : PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/220722/005096
MARS PLANET 2, 2.5, 3 BHK Flats Located @ BSK 3rd Stage, opp to Tata Promont, **8792155802, 9972399993 & 9880625336**

Kanakapura Road

HIGH RENTAL INCOME PROPERTIES FOR SALE NEAR METRO STATIONS ON KANAKAPURA ROAD. SARAKKI HOMES: 9663676464

Nagarabhavi

FLATS FOR-SALE @ Nagarabhavi Chandra Layout 2 & 3BHK Ready to Move In Good Location Call:9538472420 9845066608

Agricultural Land

Kanakapura Road

AGRICULTURE LAND and Industrial Land for SALE, Kanakapura and Harohalli, Sathanuru, Halaguru, Near. Call: 9741785136.

Agricultural Land Converted

Kengeri

FOR SALE- Converted Betterment Paid Land extent 35000 sqft A Khata. E Khata available. Opp to Kengeri Satellite Bus Stop Rs. 12000 per sqft. Brokers Excuse. Contact: 9880459141.

Commerical

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OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE for SALE at.No.U0227, 2nd`Floor Raheja Arcade. No.1/1.Koramangala Industrial Layout, Bangalore 560034 Measuring 595.Sqft. Super Builtup`area. For More Details Contact: Tushar Shand. 9342209497 9379075401.

M G Road And Around

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SALE 112 Acres Land Commercial, Residencial, Yellow Zone. Bidadi Mysore Express Highway Facing. 9141326819, 9972636255

REAL ESTATE BUYING

Sites

Banashankari

BDA SITES WANTED ARKAVATHY ANJANAPURA BANASHANKARI 6TH STAGE VISHWESHWARAIAH KEMPEGOWDA ANY BDA LAYOUT: 9845062822/ 8660751654

Vishweshwariah Layout

BUYING/ SELLING
20x30,30x40,40x60 50x80 BDA sites at VISHVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT, BSK 6th-stage. Contact: 9844533371/ 9341733480

West

PROPERTY WANTED
Wanted 3,000 to 5,000 Sqft of Land / Site / Shed / Building around West of Chord Road, Rajajinagar, Vijaynagar - BANGALORE
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AVAILABLE SITES in 100 Feet Road Banashankari 6th Stage 4th and 7th Block for Rent. Call 9880022644

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Brahmin

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PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAFEEQ PASHA SABHULAL,** S/o Sabhulal, residing at #24, 8th Cross, Masjid-e-Ali Road, Rachenahalli, Shivarama Karanth Nagar, Bengaluru - 560077 have changed my name to **RAFEEQ PASHA** vide affidavit dated: 28-11-2025 before notary L.Gopalakrishna, Bengaluru. Henceforth, I shall be called as **RAFEEQ PASHA** only.

I, NIRARAMBHAM SREENIVASA RAO CHANDRASEKHAR S/o.Sreenivasa Rao R/a#31 Flat.No.001 Ground Floor, Mysore`Bank Colony, BSK,1st`Stage Bengaluru 560050 have`changed my`Name to NEERARAMBHAM SREENIVASA RAO CHANDRASEKHAR vide`affidavit dated: 28.11.2025 before`Notary B.Gopalakrishna Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Seema C Joshi,** residing at No.21/1, GF3 R.K. Garden, 7th Main, B.S.K. 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560085, have changed my name to **SEEMA G BIJAPUR** vide affidavit dated 23.10.2025 before notary G. Dayananda, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **SEEMA G BIJAPUR** only

I, MANJUNATH Bodanahosahalli Shivanna S/o Shivanna, aged about 40 years, residing at #95, Bodanahosahalli, near Anjaneya Temple.Bodanahosahalli,Samethnanahalli Village and Post, Bangalore 560067. Have Changed my name to Manjunatha B S vide affidavit dated 28.11.2025 before Notary Veena J Bangalore. Henceforth I shall be called as Manjunatha B S only.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Ravi Prakash Bharathi,** residing at No. 206, 2nd Floor, Rajarajeshwari Citadel, Pattanagere, Near Govt School, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bengaluru-560098, have changed my name to **R BHARATHI** vide affidavit dated 17.11.2025 before notary K.V. Prema Kumari, Bengaluru.

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